



EMBASSY OF DENMARK

PRESS RELEASE

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Denmark in Your Eyes Painting Competition donates artworks to healthcare facilities

Hanoi – The Danish Embassy and Vietnam – Denmark Friendship Association (VIDAFA) today donated 196 entries from the Denmark in Your Eyes 2018 Art Contest to the Vietnam National Children’s Hospital to put a brighter, happier feel for the children receiving treatments at this healthcare facility. Besides the Vietnam National Children’s Hospital, the Vietnam-Germany Friendship Hospital and the National Hospital of Traditional Medicine also receive art donations for enhancing patient care from the Denmark in Your Eyes Contest.

These paintings are part of more than 4100 submissions from nearly 100 schools, children and art centers nation-wide participating in the annual art contest co-hosted by the Embassy, VIDAFA, Kim Dong Publishing House, and Nhi Dong Newspaper last December.

When being hospitalized, both children and their families enter an especially vulnerable and stressful period. As the hospital’s surroundings can have significant impacts on the patient experience, the donated paintings are expected to transform the hospital’s clinical areas into warm, hopeful and healing spaces for both patients and health-care providers. Therefore, these colorful and imaginative drawings not only serve to brighten the hospital’s walls, but also have a mission to bring love as well as comfort through art to the young patients.

“Research in Denmark has shown that exposure to lively visual arts can bolster spirits, reduce stress and calm anxieties for family members while contributing beneficially to the patient’s recovery. “It is my sincere hope, that the vivid artworks donated to Vietnam National Children’s Hospital will add a much-needed distraction to the young patients who come here for life-saving treatment,” said the Danish Ambassador H.E. Mr. Kim Højlund Christensen.

Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Chairman of VIDAFA, Mr. Tran Hong Ha also expressed his belief in the difference these paintings would make to the children and their families.

“These paintings offer children’s explorations of beautiful green dreams in which people, animals and nature live in harmony. These artworks radiate great imagination and inspiration. Therefore, I believe that they will have a very positive impact on the healing process of the pediatric patients undergoing treatments here and their families”, said Minister Tran Hong Ha.

“As medical professionals, we strive to make sure that each patient can still be a child while in the hospital. Therefore, we are very grateful for the donated paintings, which will create positive energy and make our patients feel much more comfortable during their hospitalization,” said Dr. Le Thi Minh Huong - Deputy Director of the Vietnam National Children’s Hospital.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

“Denmark in Your Eyes” Competition

In 2016, during the celebration of the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Denmark, the first “Denmark in your eyes” competition was launched by the Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam and VIDAFA. The 2016 competition focused on English writing skills, and the winner (a 9th -grade student from Hanoi) was awarded a two-week scholarship at Niels Brock Business School in Copenhagen, Denmark. Since then, “Denmark in your eyes” has become an annual competition for children, with a different theme every year.

In 2018, Denmark in your eyes was held under the theme of “Green Dreams”. The painting competition went nation-wide to all primary schools in Vietnam with valuable support from Kim Dong Publishing House, Nhi Dong Newspaper and My Kingdom – Lego Vietnam. Nearly 4100 students from all over Vietnam participated in the competition. 64 students were awarded with prizes. The organizers plan to make this competition an annual event for Vietnamese children. The next competition is expected to begin in September 2019.

The Danish Embassy’s Culture Program

Promotion of cultural exchange and people-to-people links between Denmark and Vietnam have been very significant. There has been an increase in cultural co-operation between the two countries with emphasis on creation, people’s access and participation in arts and promotion of cultural diversity.

For further information about the Danish-Vietnamese relationship and the Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam please visit: www.vietnam.um.dk and <https://www.facebook.com/dkvietnam>

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