



EMBASSY OF DENMARK

PRESS RELEASE

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Workshop to review the 1st phase and launch the 2nd phase of Vietnam-Denmark TVET Project

Hanoi- The first phase of Danish-Vietnamese Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Project ends with a closing workshop today where management representatives present findings, recommendations and introduce the project's second phase.

Launched in January 2017, Vietnam- Denmark TVET project is to bridge the skill gap and address emerging skills-needs in the industries of furniture and graphic design by developing an effective school-based TVET with industry links. The steering committee consists of the Danish Embassy in Vietnam, Danish Ministry of Education (DK MoE) and Vietnam's Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). Hanoi Industrial Vocational College, the North-Eastern Vocational College of Technology, Agriculture and Forestry, the Southern Technology and Agro-Forestry Vocational College and the HCM City Vocational College, are the four TVET schools selected for this pilot phase.

Under the first phase, the selected schools have reviewed and upgraded their training programs to bring them in line with current trends and practices in the furniture and graphic design industries. Additionally, there are provisions for in-service training courses for teachers to build their capacity to enhance their competencies and skills to enable them to deliver quality practical training. The ultimate aim is to make technical and vocational education demand-driven and relevant to the needs of industries. Another key deliverable from the project is a white paper collecting experience and findings of the first phase for MOLISA to develop a more responsive and demand orientated TVET system in Vietnam.

Overall, the project's first phase has ended on a very high note. All planned activities have been successfully executed with key elements and subjects are found to be aligned with the needs of the Vietnamese TVET system. All expected stakeholders are also actively involved as well as dialogue with other international donors has been established. Therefore, the project has been successful in many ways with very positive feedback from the participating colleges and stakeholders.

Also, the establishment of Local Occupational Skills Councils (LOSC) as a focal point to enhance the school/enterprise cooperation has been successful, and is regarded as a valuable forum for the future cooperation structure between schools, enterprises, authorities and other stakeholders. Consequently, the LOSCs have been the structure around which most of the local work has revolved. This work include discussing the school/business cooperation in short and long term, their skills needs and skills levels, the duration and practical implementation of practice placement (apprenticeships) and general development issues at local level, as well as developing curricula based on the division of learning goals between schools and businesses. Moreover, capacity-building activities executed by the project earn an equally positive feedback. These activities include teacher training, management training, training for in-company trainers and support to the LOSC's. However, more time is required to create effective change in working methods and mind-set with all participants.

“There are many important lessons-learned drawn from the project's first phase. Firstly, we learn that TVET reform is a high priority for the Vietnamese government. Vocational colleges and Vietnamese authorities also agree that there is a dire need to increase cooperation between colleges and businesses. However, the change process is a long one, which engages both educators and managers of vocational schools. The on-going process of increasing autonomy for TVET schools could enable schools to brand themselves and build

strong local links, yet, it also adds up the many challenges that they are already dealing with. Finally, more young people should be recruited and get involved in the TVET education on a national scale,” said Torben Schuster, the Senior Advisor from Danish Ministry of Education’s Department for Administration and International Relations.

“Please let me start by complimenting the Vietnamese Government, particularly MOLISA, for its strong and continued focus on the important area of vocational education. Important, because vocational education and training provides job opportunities for a large number of young people, it helps building a workforce with relevant and up-to-date knowledge, skills and competences, and important because vocational education and training supports strong, sustainable and equitable economic and socio-economic development,” highlighted the Danish Ambassador to Vietnam H.E. Mr. Kim Højlund in his opening remarks.

As changing TVET education is a long-term process and based on successes of the first phase, both Vietnam and Denmark have agreed to continue the cooperation of TVET in a second phase starting from May 2019 until June 2022. Besides including food processing as a new sector, the TVET’s second phase also seeks to increase policy dialogue and improve cooperation with other international partners.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Strategic TVET sector cooperation between Viet Nam and Denmark

Viet Nam and Denmark have enjoyed close bilateral cooperation for almost a decade in the field of education and training. The first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2010 was signed by the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training and the Danish Ministry of Education (DK MoE). This MOU was followed in 2013 with a new and enlarged MoU encompassing also the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA) and the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science (DK MHES). These four ministries are still close partners in a joint MOU, renewed in 2016.

When Denmark phased out traditional development assistance over the period from 2010-2015 due to Viet Nam’s high economic growth and new status as middle-income country, the global program for “Partnering with Denmark” was initiated promoting strategic sector cooperation with 14 countries. Under this program, education was singled out as strategic area of cooperation between Denmark and Viet Nam. In 2016, the Vietnamese and Danish line ministries, namely MoLISA, MoET, DK MoE, DK MHES and EDK decided to focus the strategic sector program on technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and the “Technical and vocational Education and Training Project” with in the Furniture and Graphic Design Sector was initiated in January 2017 to be completed in March 2019.

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>

For additional information regarding the TVET Project:

For media inquiries, please contact:

Mr. Morten Pristed

Education Counsellor
Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam
Tel: +8424 8231888
Email: morpri@um.dk

Mr. Torben Schuster

Senior Advisor /Danish Ministry of
Education
TVET Project Manager
Email: Torben.Schuster@uvm.dk

Ms. Huong Vu

Communications Officer
Tel: 0913270374
Email: vhuong@um.dk