

Newsletter 05/2009



7th issue, May 2009

Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam

SJ Vietnam News

Our Long-Term Volunteers

14 International volunteers



1 Belgian



4 Danish



2 Finnish



3 French



2 German



1 Israeli



1 Korean

Activities :

- Cultural evenings at LTV House
- LTV meeting every Thursday
- Vietnamese lesson

Our Short-Term Volunteers upcoming & participants

- 22.06/03.07 Youth House School for disadvantaged children

Number of international volunteers: 2
Vacancies: 6

SJ Vietnam celebrates International Children's Day at the National Pediatrics Hospital in Hanoi

On the 31st of May, SJ Vietnam helped organizing International Children's Day at Hanoi National Hospital of Pediatrics.

SJ Vietnam long term and short term volunteers joined this major event and performed in front of an audience composed of children, parents and staff from the hospital.

It was not only a very fun and exciting day for the children but it was also a very interesting and intercultural moment for everybody.

For this special occasion other groups and organisations prepared a performance such as Japanese traditional dances and Vietnamese and English songs including Twinkle twinkle little star.

3 long term volunteers: Annika from Finland, Eunmi from Korea and Modi from Israel had prepared the first performance of SJ Vietnam. They acted a modern version of the "Sleeping Beauty" focused on the environment.

The play was a hit thanks to the great efforts of our local and international volunteers who prepared the decoration, the costumes and the dialogues themselves.

The short term volunteers ended the show. The 8 participants of this special workcamp from Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Canada had prepared 3 different performance involving dance, singing as well as funny accessories. They closed the event with the world famous dance on YMCA song. "Young men there is no need to feel down ..."

SJ Vietnam goes TV...

„SJ Vietnam, co len!“ – „SJ Vietnam, go for it!“, the fans at the tribune screamed into the TV cameras very fervently, hopefully and quite convincing when they cheered for their brave players. But it didn't help them, unfortunately.

After four rounds the others, the red ones, not SJV, the green ones won the palm. But it wasn't even enough for coming in second, the blue ones were running-up. So the green SJV-team was ranking third and hindmost. Booby prize: still 2.000.000 Vietnam Dong, after all.

Although the chances didn't seem half bad in the beginning. The way Dung uncovered the right colored path, the green one, so confidently in the first round, but then accidentally opened up the wrong field, a red one, almost at the end. That was so close, what a pity!

Also Duc and Hang made only one wrong guess during the song quiz in the second round but they never got a second chance. And poor Hung was flitting so quickly on this oversized green record player pushing its arm so strongly trying to free the song out of its deformation to make it easier for Duc and Hang. All in vain.



Next round: a general knowledge quiz. No chances for team green and team blue, both light-years away from team red, which was giving all the correct answers right from the beginning.

But still the decision hadn't been made yet because the most important and finally deciding task had to be fulfilled in round four, the last round: Who finds the right car key for the van which would take the winning team symbolically on a trip wherever the team would like to go, either to Sapa or to Cat Ba or somewhere else, but only having one try? Did team red had to choose between only two keys because of its lead over the others and therefore saw the biggest chance to win team blue still had to struggle through ten keys after all while with fifteen keys to choose the defeat of team green had been sealed already.

"The Last Passenger", that's the name of the popular Vietnamese TV game show which was recorded for Vietnamese television on early Tuesday morning of the 26th of May in Hanoi and which SJ Vietnam participated in this time. The game is about packing a mini van full with passengers which means members of the team by solving different tasks. The last player or the last passenger has to find the right key for the car. If the key actually fits in the whole team will go on a short trip. Additionally the winners receive 15.000.000 Vietnam Dong, money which would have filled the SJ-project-money-pot to a great and helping extend too. Well in the end, it wasn't meant to be like that.

But nevertheless it was a special and quite funny event for everyone, especially for the kids from the Fisher Village, whose special needs SJ Vietnam is dedicating to in the Youth House school project. Equipped with kiwi fruit-green t-shirts and kiwi fruit-green pompons they got the chance to join some international long-term and several local volunteers as well as friends and family members of some players in the audience to cheer powerfully for the team. And they did perfectly! But however, TV recordings usually last, and people have to wait.

Once in a while it gets a little boring. So the kids started to fool around and to tease each other. The green pompons were converted into wigs and the colored confetti into crumbles to besprinkle the ones sitting next. And what did the others do? Many a volunteer joined them, had also kiwi fruit-green hair all of a sudden. Well, that's how they are: just children, the little and the big ones...

On June, 25th the little funny drama will be shown on Vietnamese television.

Free Movie for Children's Day

For the last Friday of the month SJ Vietnam PR Department organised a partnership with Hanoi Megastar Cinema.

On the occasion of International Children's Day the Movie Theater provided free tickets for the children from the Youth House and the Pagoda.

It was a perfect rainy day to go to watch a movie ! For some children it was the first time that they were going to watch a movie in a real theater.

The Movie theater company also offered some gifts to the children (story books, biscuits, candies, soft toys...)



Splash !

On the 28th of May, the children from the Youth House school project escaped one day of studying to go to the water park thanks to the donation of Isabel our long term volunteer. The children, our volunteers and some staff members enjoyed the slides and the pools. It was the second time of the year that the children had the opportunity to go to the water park and for many of them it will remain one of their best moments with our volunteers.



Vietnam News



“Nothing is more valuable than independence and freedom”
Ho Chi Minh.

Happy Birthday, Uncle Ho! By Annegret

119 he would have turned on May 19th: the Great Father, how everyone here in Vietnam still calls him respectfully. Or affectionately: Bac Ho, Uncle Ho. The man, who declared Vietnam free and independent on September 2nd, 1945 and has been worshipped like a saint since then. No public building without his bust or his picture, hardly a city or town without his statue or a museum dedicated to him and no public celebration without his words. He is the icon of the sovereign Vietnam, his spirit deeply rooted in the collective soul, in the collective consciousness. The great president, the grandfather of the nation, who seems to watch over everything and everyone, as an example, guide and instructor. His five advices he used to give to students can be found written down in every classroom, and they say: Love our country and love our people; study well and work hard; be cooperative and disciplined; keep your environment clean and ensure personal hygiene; be modest and brave. Ho Chi Minh, the bringer of light, he is alive and people follow him in cultic adoration. Even though this personality cult somewhat contradicts his rather simple, very moderate life so full of privations, of which he spent a good portion outside his beloved home country: as a sailor and ship's cook on the seas of the world, or in Paris, where he co-founded the Communist Party of France, or in Moscow,

where his political thinking was sharpened for the fight against colonialism, or in Hong Kong where he established the Communist Party of Indochina and was arrested by the British, or in China where he started the anti-French resistance. He returned to his homeland in 1941 to lead the Viet Minh independent movement. Pac Bo the place where he set his feet on native soil for the first time after 30 years and where he lived in a cave for a while became a holy place for Vietnamese people.

Although he led his country to independence in 1945 and the French were definitely forced to give up their empire in Indochina after the battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954 his dream of a reunited Vietnam remained unfulfilled in his lifetime. Uncle Ho died on September 2nd in 1969. Seven years after his death his dream finally became true.



Brief chronology

19th of May 1890 – Born in Nghê An

From 1911 – Lives Vietnam to study foreign policies in France, the US and England.

3rd of February 1930 – Presides over the founding of the Vietnamese Communist Party.

2nd of September 1945 – Declaration of Independence, Hanoi. Ho Chi Minh becomes the 1st President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

2nd of September 1969 – Died in Hanoi



Volunteer Stories

 **Hei, mita kuuluu...?** 
(Hello, how are you...?)

Welcome to Finland!

Did you know that the Finnish people like to make funny contests, for example the wife carrying or the wellington boots throwing contest? Or that the two colors of the Finnish flag, blue and white, symbolize the sky and snow? Of course you know that the most famous person from Finland is Santa Claus. And you might also know that Finland is very famous for saunas, there are around 2 million. But did you know that Finland got independent only in 1917? And did you expect knowing about Lapland which is situated in the far, far north, that there are no polar bears in Finland?

Now we know it!

Living together with international volunteers is such a great chance to get to know different countries and cultures. Sometimes the countries are not even far away from your own and all of a sudden you realize what little knowledge you had about your

neighbors.

On a very special night our two Finnish volunteers Annika and Laura organized for us they took us on a fascinating trip to their home country. Our journey started with a typically Finnish meal: the famous Finnish meatballs plus mashed potatoes with garlic plus lots of vegetables, for our vegetarians. So delicious! After that the girls checked our knowledge about their country in a Finland quiz. Well, it could have been much worse. For many of us Finland hasn't been such an unknown, mysterious place. But there were still a lot of things to learn. For example Finnish. So now everyone knows how to ask for a beer in Finland, and it goes like this: "Saisinko yhden olven?" Very easy! With the story about the life adventures of a guy named Vainamoinen Annika's beautiful voice sang to us we finished the night. The story was taken from the famous Book of Legends out of which people did and still do not read the stories but sang and sing them to each other and pass them on from one generation to the next. What a nice tradition!

And what a wonderful Finnish night!



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upcoming events and
latest news!

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Goodbye

... to Mister Do Nguyen Viet Hung, group workcamp coordinator & Miss Ngo Thi Thu Nhuong, our office manager who left SJ Vietnam on the 29th of May.

We wish them good luck in the future and thank them for their great contributions !



Coming Soon...

WORKCAMPS

- From the 8th until the 19th of June - Hold the Future Center for Disabled teenagers and adults.

- From the 22nd of June until the 3rd of July – Youth House School for disadvantaged children.

For further information please contact workcamp@sjvietnam.org.

NEW VOLUNTEERS WITH GLEN PROGRAM

For 3 months SJ Vietnam will welcome 2 international volunteers to work in the Human Resources Department. One volunteer from Germany and one from Czech Republic.

The first volunteer will arrive on the 16th of June and the second one at the beginning of July.

NOT ONE LESS PROGRAM

Not One Less Program is an European project from Youth in Action Program initiated by Cantiere Giovani, Federacion de Asociaciones Juveniles de Gijon's, Vive Mexico's, Genctur and Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam.