

# Newsletter 06/2009



5th issue, June 2009

Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam

## SJ Vietnam News

### Our Long-Term Volunteers

10 International volunteers



1 Belgian



2 Finnish



3 French



2 German



1 Israeli



1 Korean

**URGENT !**

**WORKCAMPS 06/07-17/07**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR  
LOCAL VOLUNTEERS &  
INTERNATIONAL  
PARTICIPANTS FOR :**

- SJV0916, Gardening at  
Hold the future.

- SJV0917, Hai Duong  
Welfare Center.

- SJV0918, Youth House  
School.

Please check the description  
on our website :  
[www.sjvietnam.org](http://www.sjvietnam.org)  
and/or contact us at :  
[workcamp@sjvietnam.org](mailto:workcamp@sjvietnam.org)

## Call for participants!!! Patrimonito workcamp is coming soon...

For our World Heritage Workcamp in Ha Long Bay, we are currently looking for **15 international volunteers**.

From the **17<sup>th</sup> until the 28<sup>th</sup> of August**, SJ Vietnam will be hosting the workcamp for the second time.

The theme of this year is **Green Ha Long Bay Forever**. The main goal of the workcamp will be to sensitize the local population to the Ha Long Bay Site.

The activities will include workshops, forum, collecting garbage, cycling around the city and meeting local environmental clubs and authorities.

If you need more info please contact Tung, our workcamp coordinator: [workcamp@sjvietnam.org](mailto:workcamp@sjvietnam.org)



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## International Volunteers, we are looking for you... !

For this summer, SJ Vietnam is looking for new long-term volunteers to join its projects in and around Hanoi.

This is our current situation for July & August:

### In Hanoi

**Youth House project** – vacancies: 2

**Blind School** – vacancies: 2

**National Pediatrics Hospital** – vacancies: 4

**Website Management** – vacancies: 1

### Around Hanoi

**Hai Duong Welfare Center** – vacancies: 3

**Xuan Thuy National Park** - vacancies: 2

Please contact our LTV Department: [ltv@sjvietnam.org](mailto:ltv@sjvietnam.org) and check the description of the projects on our website: [www.sjvietnam.org](http://www.sjvietnam.org)



## SJ Vietnam News

### From ten thousands kilometers away... by Cédric

...cultural and linguistic differences over, five ETAI members have reached the ground of the NOIBA HA NOI international airport for a one month stay along SJV staff and volunteers. They are the first mission of the ETAI summer presence in the Viet Nam, for another team, of five members also, will round up for the month of July. ETAI, the french association which settled a partnership with SJV five years ago, works all the year round from Toulouse, SW of France, to get along SJV on projects such as the Water Filter project, and the Youth House. They are amongst others fundraising throughout a diverse range of events, festivals, eg. The international day of awareness on malaria.

The members of ETAI, who are mostly medical students, come up for the summer program activities with actions such as raising awareness about health or psychological issues. This year, they've started working on dealing with wounds, burns, and cuts. As a certain amount of syringes, needles used by toxic addicted people was found in the surroundings of the Fisher Village and the Island area (where most of the inhabitants walk barefoot), children were taught the risks, how to identify and behave when facing those.

A workshop about violence and anger management will occur this week, as well as a little work on sexual education.

The ETAI members keep on adapting their western eyes and conception to the vietnamese views, so aside the exchange of knowledges and skills, they also find the chance of a rich and intense cultural exchange, which meets both the curiosity of children and adults.

Your reporter, that is to say me, is writing right now live from the Water Park of Tay Ho, Ha Noi. More than twenty children and a dozen of local and international volunteers have joined for this crazy afternoon here. I hear them shout, laugh, jump, and swim. The children just love the Water Park, though I've started wondering right now who's enjoying more from the children or the volunteers. For they speak tieng viet ( vietnamese), tieng anh (english), or tieng phap (french), today they just share the same language, this international language of friendship.

ETAI and SJV share values on international understanding, promoting peace and despite the difficulties inherent to such a cooperation from the two sides of the world, the children's smiles today simply shows once again the meaningful results of all the hard work that's being done. So let's go back to swim now, and hold on, for this is all to be continued...

### **SJ Vietnam is looking for students living in Belgium, France, Luxembourg or Switzerland to develop a permanent representation of SJ Vietnam in Europe**

#### Duty:

- promote SJ Vietnam projects in universities
- represent SJ Vietnam in international meeting and sending organizations
  - manage media campaign (local newspapers, radio, local TV)
  - train and meet future volunteers.
- create volunteer opportunities for Asian volunteers in local organizations.
  - to help to organize social meeting with ex volunteers
  - Welcome Asian long term volunteers.
  - update French web site

Qualifications: previous experience as volunteer in Asia. French or Vietnamese is an asset.

Working places: teleworking + meeting in Brussels or Lille

Working hours: average of 3 hours / week

Salary: volunteer work until March. All the costs paid (train ticket, international phone calls, Internet, etc)

Possibility to get a full time job in September 2010.

Send your CV and a short motivation letter to [pierre@sjvietnam.org](mailto:pierre@sjvietnam.org). Tel + 32 495 680 934

## SJ Vietnam News

**“You kids all have voices. Make sure that people are listening to you!”**

...that was the last message Cliff Hahn was sending out at the end of a very special workshop on Tuesday, 9th of June. The former journalist and director of Children's Express in New York invited the children from the Youth House to discuss about their personal concerns, to let them speak out their feelings and to learn about their suggestions to handle their daily life issues.

10 children aged from 8 to 15 years old, worked together in two groups exchanging their sorrows, worries, and fears related to their life situation at the moment.

It was touching to see how naturally and easily the children expressed their feelings on a piece of paper. Obviously there were so many things to say and to talk about.

The issues they were concerned about were the typical children's worries related to family, schools and friends at first sight.

However, getting more into details it became clear that their struggles in life are different from the average child's.

The discussion started with a 12 years old girl saying how angry she was to be beaten by her teacher. It sounded quite rough to hear but the way she said it was so natural and normal.

Later on in a further discussion, it sounded that most of the children were angry about it but also agreed somehow with this practice. Seeing themselves as naughty because that's what their environment often makes them feel like, they explained that they deserve being treated this way.

Despite the moments of anger and sadness, the children referred to happy moments and gave us somehow their own definition of happiness. 10 years old boy talked about his happiness, how much he likes his country, his friends and his mother who are just great to him.

Hearing how the children are dealing with happiness gave reason to be optimistic.

It was a very special moment that the children shared at the Youth House, for one morning the time did not matter anymore. What only mattered were the children's concerns.

Further information about Cliff Hahn can be found at <http://www.cliff-hahn.com/>



*Cliff Hahn (in the center) with the Youth House kids*



## Volunteer Stories

### The spring is leaving with Eunmi, Modi and Annika ! By Fred

In the LTV's house, 3 volunteers Eunmi from South Korea, Modi from Israel and Annika from Finland, left the end of June !

Modi brought the medical clown in the 6<sup>th</sup> et 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hospital

Annika brought her Finnish songs

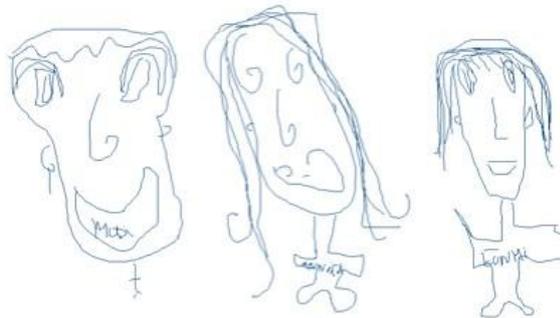
Eunmi brought all her knowledge about Korean ( the local volunteer were so happy to share about Korean drama )

Thanks for their involve in the Paediatric Hospital. It was nice to have a team of 3 international volunteer in this hospital.

Have an international team give to the Vietnamese children of the hospital the opportunity to get in touch with an other culture and for the international volunteer, they had a better understanding of the Vietnamese life in a such difficult environment like the hospital.

The international volunteer learnt a lot about Vietnam, they enjoyed so much Vietnam that one of them ( Modi) will travel in Vietnam for few month and Eunmi really want to come back in discover better Vietnam !

Take care !



*Ps : this is not a draw from the hospital's children but one of our staff's member !*

### From Germany to Vietnam - impressions of my first week in Hanoi

By Jessica

Though I had spent hours in informing myself about Vietnam by reading several articles on the Internet and travel guides I still wondered: How is it going to be there in Hanoi? What about the people who live in Vietnam, how are the living, what about the food, how does it taste, what about the buildings, the people I will work with, the customs, the traffic and the whole atmosphere of the city. But knowing that the weather would be warm in Vietnam made it easier to leave the freezing cold and rainy Germany behind me.

When I got out of the plane in Hanoi I immediately felt an oppressive heat, so I thought: "Okay this is not the „real“ air of the city- it's just too hot. It must be only on the airport..." But when I went out of the airport to get a taxi I knew this was going to be the temperature that I will be with for the next three months- wow-really hot! As the taxi drove downtown I was really impressed by the beauty of the many narrow sized but high built houses in the French colonial design. And I was happy to see palm trees, because in Germany they don't grow outside because it's too cold. (...)



(...) After coming to the office by taxi the first day, the next days I decided to take the bus. When I got to the bus stop I looked for the bus schedule, which we have in Germany, and where is written exact to the minute when the next bus will arrive. “Hmmm??” I didn’t find one here. ☺ But anyway just then a bus came, so I took it. When I got on the bus I wanted to give the bus driver my money to buy a ticket, just like we do it in Germany. But then I recognized that he didn’t care at all and that all people on the bus were looking at me with a question mark on their face. Then finally the guy came to me, said I should take a seat first, then he sold me a ticket. “Ahhh, now I know- this is how it works here...”. And getting out of the bus? In Germany each bus station has a name and the bus driver always announces each bus station, but here I recognized that you have to know where you want to get off and be prepared to jump off and on the bus as it drives by. So I was very glad that I had to get off at the last station of the bus because I never had known when to get off.

During the first days I tried many different types of fruit that I had never seen, and even haven’t heard about before. So it is very interesting for me to see the different types of fruit you have here in Vietnam. And here you get it really ripe; however in Germany the most fruit you can buy is not ripe yet. So it doesn’t taste that good. That’s why I especially love drinking fruit shakes “Sinh To” and the juice of bamboo here, „mmmmmmhh- it’s so refreshing.

In Germany I used to cook at home every day because it is much cheaper to buy things from the supermarket and cook them at home by yourself. But here I enjoy eating outside and its even not more expensive. And Vietnamese dishes are soo tasty – Anyway, in general I didn’t expect the food to be that tasty and delicious for me. And, in addition, here in Hanoi you can really get so many dishes from all over the world, like Italian or Indian food- that’s great, too. And I was wondering that even as a vegetarian you get along very well. Most people are very friendly and give you the dish you ordered without meat and you even pay less.

But there is one thing that turned out too be worse than I could imagine. The traffic. There are so many cars, buses and especially motorbikes everywhere and the most streets don’t have a sidewalk for pedestrians what would be much more safe for the people who are walking. In addition the traffic here in Hanoi is really loud and sometimes I feel dizzy from the exhaust gases on the streets. Quite different from the German traffic- I think I still have to get used to it ☺

And finally there is one thing that I really learnt to appreciate here in Hanoi. It’s the rain. Because it has been really hot and sunny, I was really glad when on one day the clouds came, covered the sun and brought some rain that cooled the whole city down again.

So after spending about one week here now I can definitely say that Hanoi has much more to give than that what can be described through the Internet or travel guides. So for the three months that I will be here I am looking forward to taking trips to experience more of the country of Vietnam.

I would like to say a big “Thank you” to SJV for giving me such a warm welcome-week. And I’m sure that I myself, and also my tandem partner Tomas who will be arriving soon, will spend a memorable time with SJV in Hanoi.



*Jessica in front of Tran Quoc Pagoda in Hanoi*



*Having some fresh sugar cane juice, yummy !*



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learning, sharing  
and being*

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Check our website for  
upcoming events and  
latest news!

**[www.sjvietnam.org](http://www.sjvietnam.org)**

## Goodbye

... to Mister Doan Viet Dung, group workcamp coordinator who left SJ Vietnam at the beginning of this month.

He helped SJ Vietnam to develop the group workcamp Department, he also participated in the recruitment of our new local volunteers and took part in our activities.

We wish him good luck in the future and thank them for his great contribution!



*Mister Doan Viet Dung*

## Coming Soon...

### TRAINING

On the **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of July**, SJ Vietnam will organize a training for future workcamp facilitators. At the end of the training they will be ready to facilitate SJ Vietnam's workcamp and manage an international team.

During these 2 days the participants will cook and live together.

### WORKCAMPS

From the 6<sup>th</sup> until the 17<sup>th</sup> of July

- . Hold the Future Center for Disabled teenagers and adults
- . Youth House School for disadvantaged children
- . Hai Duong Welfare Center

From the 20<sup>th</sup> until the 31<sup>st</sup> of July

- . Hold the Future Center for Disabled teenagers and adults
- . Youth House School for disadvantaged children

For further information please contact [workcamp@sjvietnam.org](mailto:workcamp@sjvietnam.org)

### NOT ONE LESS PROGRAM

A website has been created recently. Check it now: **[www.nonformaleducation.net](http://www.nonformaleducation.net)**

Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam is taking part of the Not One Less Program. This program is an European project from Youth in Action Program initiated by Cantiere Giovani, Federacion de Asociaciones Juveniles de Gijón's, Vive Mexico's, and Genctur.

The main objective of the program is to further civil society organizations' networking involved in youth sector.

All the participating NGO's lead interviews about formal, non-formal and informal education on the basis of one similar questionnaire.

A first meeting took place from the **25<sup>th</sup> until the 28<sup>th</sup> of June in Italy** to present the results of the interviews and discuss the upcoming actions.