

**Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam**

# **SJ Vietnam newsletter**

**December 2010**

## **Our Long-Term Volunteers**



2 Finnish



2 Belgian



9 French



5 German



4 Japanese

## **UP-COMING EVENT:**

### **Lunar New Year workcamp**

Time: from 17th to 28th of January.

Location of the campsite:  
Pediatric Hospital & Youth House

Work / activities:

- Make chung cakes for the children in P.H and Youth House.
- Prepare performances in P.H
- Join Environment workshop named Voluntary Actions for Green Life
- Join intercultural night



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

**Dear friends and partners,**

**The year-end brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to express to you season's greetings and good wishes.**

**Thank you so much for your concerns to our activities as well as your cooperation with our organization.**

**May your new year be filled with joy!**

**- SJ Vietnam -**



## Christmas workcamp

My recent participation in SJ Vietnam filled my mind with the excited scenario of preparing the Christmas for children living at Fishing Village.

Me and my friends including both local and international volunteers had sweet memories at short-term house, where we wrapped gifts, made Christmas cards and decorated a pine-tree for the children. During these days, besides my great feelings of making presents for the children, it was fantastic to know more friends from Japan, Korean and Denmark and their cultures. In return, we also held a welcome party and a city tour in terms of presenting Vietnamese culture which aroused the foreigners' interest. On the final days of this project, we brought all of the stuffs to Fishing Vil-



lage and adorned the ground with dozens of motley balloons. The children were likely to be ecstatic and totally lost their mind when they saw the toys and gifts. Their blissful smiles when they got the award after each game were truly touch my heart and made my Christmas to be wonderful.

That was one of my most impressive experiences with the children and a lot of new friends. I wish that I could spend more time playing around with them and make their Christmas become more meaningful.

*Nguyen Minh Hoang*



# Christmas in Hanoi

Christmas is not so big event in Vietnam than in European countries. That's because most of the people in Vietnam are buddhists and only ten procent of the people are christians. It's possible to hear Christmas songs in big supermarkets and see Christmas trees in western hotels and restaurants but most of the Vietnamese people doesn't celebrate Christmas at all. 24th of December is just a normal working day for the Vietnamese people. On Christmas Eve many Vietnamese people just go out to the center to see their friends and eat with them.

Because SJ Vietnam has a lot of western volunteers working in Ha Noi, we decided to celebrate Christmas together. In Europe every country have different kind of Christmas traditions but for example in Finland people usually stay together with their families during the Christmas time. In Finland people have at least three day holiday during the Christmas. On Christmas Eve we carry a real Christmas tree inside of our houses, eat together with our families and relatives and give presents. Some people also go to the church. The weather is usually really cold during the Christmas time, about minus 10 degrees and a lot of snow.

Because we are now in Vietnam we decided to celebrate Christmas in Vietnamese way. We went to eat restaurant with all international volunteers. Because gifts are really big part of the Christmas in Europe we also decided to give presents. Japanese boy



wear Santa Claus uniform and he gave one present for every volunteer. After eating we went to near the West Lake to sit and talk.

This year all of the international volunteers had totally different Christmas than usually but we had a great time and it was nice to experience Christmas in Vietnam!

*Riikka Jokinen*

# Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam

*Volunteer for sharing, learning and being responsible*

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By developing international volunteering, we aim to:

1. Work towards a society of justice, peace and solidarity.
2. Break cultural misunderstanding between people and nations.
3. Improve local and global environment, provide informal education, help to reduce poverty and strengthen human rights
4. Encourage young people to participate actively in the society in which they live.

