



Newsletter March, 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013 !!!
Chúc Mừng Năm Mới 2013 !!!

Dear Members and Partners,

We are happy to inform you a Newsletter after several months. All SJ Vietnam team wish you a happy new year 2013. We hope that all of you will enjoy this new year of the snake in all areas. May this new year bring many opportunities on your way and turning all your efforts into great achievements.



What's new?

This month, we will talk to you about the different projects leading by our coordinators. Mien and Duc took part in Youth Training program in India for the ESIA project (p2). Phuc is currently in Slovakia for Alliance meeting and LTV Global (p2).

From the 4th to the 17th of March, 4 Japanese volunteers and some local volunteers will participate in Eco Sponge Action Workcamp (p3) helping the people of the Fisher Village to restore their houses. These team of volunteer will also contribute to the restoration of the New Youth Center installed since the 18th of February to a new address : 34, alley 133/33, Tan Ap street, Ba Dinh district.

We would like also, from this Newsletter, start to present you one member (of the staff or a volunteer) or one partner (professional or a host family) every month in Newsletter to make you know better about all the persons whom SJ Vietnam is working with and who are contributing for voluntary activities in particular and the development of Vietnam in general(p3).

Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam

SJ Vietnam,
*“Volunteer for
sharing, learning and
being responsible”.*

Inside this issue:

*2nd Public Relations
Summit and 7th
NVDA Annual Meet-
ing* 2

*Mien and Duc
joined Youth
Training in India* 2

*ALLIANCE Meeting
in Slovakia* 2

*Lunar New Year
Work Camp* 2

*Eco Sponge Action
Work Camp* 3

*Presentation of Nam,
one SJV coordinator* 3

English Club Corner 3

2nd PR Summit and 7th NVDA Annual Meeting in Thai Nguyen

Successfully, The 2nd PR Summit and 7th NVDA Annual Meeting was held in Thai Nguyen with 34 participants from 15 different organizations from 17 to 13 January 2013.

In the second PR Summit, we focus three specific goals by PR through sharing difficulties and know-how; getting new, effective skills and creating common visions and actions. With a lot of sessions and workshops, our purposes are: To get more recognition from people and other stakeholders widely; To get more numbers of qualified international

and national volunteers; and To get more numbers and amount of grants and donations sustainably. In decision, it will be organized one time per two years (biannual) not annual from next summit.

One time per year, member organizations of NVDA have a place to evaluate the previous year and plan the new year called NVDA Annual Meeting. In honor, SJ Vietnam became a host of this NVDA Annual Meeting. Following three main aims of NVDA annual meeting: sharing the situations of the members and strengthening partnership, solidarity

and motivation; evaluating the activities and management of NVDA and member organizations in 2012; and planning activities for 2013, we run through several workshops and practical activities. 2012 with a lot of difficulties and challenges shared, we deeply think that all experiences can help our organizations develop in a stronger way.

With all our efforts, we believe that NVDA is always a friendly home where you can share more and more.

Mien and Duc took part in Youth Training program in India

For the project **ESIA Voluntary Service** – Volunteerism for Global Education and Understanding of the Spanish NGO Cazalla Intercultural, our project coordinators Mien and Duc went to India in the end of February to join in Youth Training program. This project “aims to develop a sustainable partnership mechanism between Asia and European youth organizations working on volunteerism as an entry point to ensure young people’s participation, empowerment and commitment to address different social challenges that affect them”. The project includes 4 partners from Asia (China, India, Philippines and Vietnam) and 4 partners in Europe (Greece, Spain, Poland and Lithuania) working together to contribute to the permanent and

annual priorities of EU Youth in Action program.

“We have a dream... The dream is to make the film about international volunteering, with a bit of drama, a bit of romance and with 40 young people



from 8 different countries together. This film is a tale of hope, courage, love and contribution of international volunteers towards mankind. Finally we dream to do the international premier of this amazing piece of work during the Cannes Film Festival.

With this idea we want to prove that borders are not a limitation that young people from the entire world can work together promoting Love, Peace & Harmony through volunteering and mutual understanding, and that dreams can come true!” - the member of the group said.

Phuc in Slovakia for ALLIANCE Meeting and LTV Global

Phuc is currently in Slovakia, where a technical meeting of Alliance is being held.

The activities of the network Alliance are arranged to support and develop the programs and interests of member organiza-

tions.

The members and invited partner organizations exchange annual workcamp programs and discuss relevant issues for their work, principally through bi-lateral discussions.

The goals of the meetings are to create new tools, ideas or recommendations for the network.



“Sharing is like a garden, It is small but you reap more than you sow”

Lunar New Year workcamp that has been run as an annual workcamp of SJ Vietnam. This year, we have several volunteers from Denmark, Japan, Germany, Belgium and several enthusiastic local volunteers that join in the workcamp from 25th Jan to 3rd Feb 2013.

Here is a sharing of Nicolas from Denmark: “The very first time I go to Hanoi-Vietnam. The experience of making Banh Chung (Chung Cake) is one of the activities in Lunar New Year Workcamp

I liked most. In my imagination, it should be made from flour, butter, sugar, straw-



berry... But from sticky rice, green bean, meat – some simple ingredients we made over 100 Banh Chung for the disadvantaged people in Fisher Village and disabled children in Phuc Tue Center. The moment I see all their smiling faces I understand that the happiness people in the world are those who give happiness to another people.”

In new spring, we have a wish of health, happiness and success for all the people, a thank for all our dear volunteers!

Eco Sponge Action Workcamp in March

Four times per year, ESA Workcamp is run in Hanoi repeatedly. With the idea that making eco sponges by women in Fisher Village then they will be sold in Japan, ESA Workcamp lasts 4 years already. The first ESA Workcamp of 2013 will be held from 4th -17th 2013. We have 4 Japanese volunteers and several local volunteers. Along with giving acryl for the women in Fisher Village to make eco sponges, we also plan to renovate the house for the people in Fisher Village. We will buy some new tanks and

bamboo to make their slum more stable and warmer.



Besides, we will created a workshop with English Club of Youth Center to promote more about ESA Workcamp. On purpose, We have a dream to sell eco sponge in Hanoi to help the people in Fisher Village gain more income.

If you are interested in this promotion action program, feel free to contact our coordinator Ms. Hang through out@sjvietnam.org

Do you know all the members of SJ Vietnam? Presentation of Nam, one of our new coordinators

Nam is 25 years old who is working as a coordinator for SJ Vietnam.

Before being coordinator, he was volunteer in our organization. That's why we think it's interesting to introduce him and help you to know more about the profile of the SJV Members.

After finished his studies in Business and Management and have worked in the Marketing service of two companies, one of his friends (the ex Long Term Volunteer coordinator) introduce him to the world of SJ Vietnam and to the help for poor people around him.

He started as a local volunteer in Hanoi in 4 different work camps before going to France to be volunteer in a Service Civic program over there.

SJV: How did you feel over there?

Nam: During the first 2 months, it was hard, I was missing my family, my friends, Vietnamese food. I went to the mountain in winter so the weather was really cold for me. After that, I felt really

friendly with all the local people, had fun with all the volunteers. I learnt a lot in France, about how can I have a good relationship with different persons from different countries for example. I was work camp leader so it taught me to be well organized. I was responsible of the daily life of the team.

SJV: Do you feel any changes between before and after your experience abroad?

Nam: Yes, I do. It was a really good experience, I changed a lot, I got more maturity.

I was really happy to come back in Vietnam. I ate rice a lot (smile). But sometimes, I'm missing France, my project, the others volunteers...

SJV: Do you have some advice for the future volunteers?

Nam: I'll be really happy if more people become volunteer in the future. It's a unique experience to take care of the poor people in Vietnam and bring the smile to them. For the volunteers who will go

abroad, I can tell them : Have fun, enjoy your life abroad, take care about you in the other countries for the food, the weather... For me, everybody can go abroad, they just need to do a test being volunteer in Vietnam first and then, they can go. For the language it's not important even for the English. Before going to France, I couldn't speak English. I think the body language is more important. I improve my English over there and you can also learn language in the country you will go.

SJV: What would you want to do in the future?

Nam: Stay coordinator, help the children and help SJV to grow up more.

SJV: Do you want to add something?

Nam: No just "Stay hungry and stay foolish".

We thank Nam for his time and to have accepted this interview.

English Club Corner

Every Saturday morning, SJV organize an English Club in the Youth Center where the students can come to practice English and improve thanks to the group.

If you are interested to come and practice with us, do not hesitate to contact us. You can also contact Linh, our coordinator responsible of the English Club.

Address of the Youth Center :

34, alley 133/33, Tan Ap street, Ba Dinh district, Hanoi.

Saturday 9th of March, the English Club of the Youth Center will host the Eco Sponge Action volunteer team for a cultural exchange between the students of the Youth Center and the Japanese volunteers to talk about their work camp but also to share a discussion on the differences between their own cultures. This activity will be run from 10am to 12am and will be extend around a lunch meal.

SJ Vietnam is also in partnership with Hoa Binh University where we will establish soon an English Club to help the students to practise english thanks to the presence of foreigner volunteers who will create an english environment where the students won't have choice on the language if they want to communicate with them.

Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam

Address :
Suite 903, N1 building,
283 Linh Nam Street,
Hoang Mai district, Hanoi

Working hours : From 9am to
6pm, from Monday to Friday.

Phone: (+84) 462 845 535 / (+84)
22 154 993

Fax: (+84) 462 845 353

General Email :
info@sjvietnam.org

For more information about SJ
Vietnam, please visit our website:
www.sjvietnam.org

And do not hesitate to contact us
via the emails, telephone,
Facebook...

Coming events...

From the 03/04/2013 to the 03/17/2013 :
Workcamp Eco Sponge Action to the
Fisher Village.

English Club

Every Saturday morning to the Youth
Center

What do you think about a volunteers-
hip abroad?

*SJ Vietnam, "Volunteer for sharing,
learning and being responsible".*



Solidarités Jeunesses Vietnam (SJ Vietnam) is an international youth NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) that promotes values of solidarity, peace and tolerance through youth citizenship projects to improve society during and after the voluntarism.

It was set up in 2004 by international and Vietnamese volunteers with the coordination of Mr Pierre De Hanscutter and Miss Do Thi Phuc. SJ Vietnam is managed by and for young volunteers with the support of UNDP Vietnam (United Nations Development Program) at the beginning. SJ Vietnam is an independent Vietnamese branch of SJ France, a full member of CCVIS (UNESCO) and NVDA, a partner of YAP and Alliance.

SJ Vietnam is an independent, non-political and non-religious organization open to everybody without any distinction of nationality, race, philosophy, financial resource, education or sex.

Calling for donations books

In the project to create a Café with a Book Corner, we still need your help.

We need foreign books, novels, comics, magazine, books about handcraft, travel guides and also some games for the children.

You can contact us (project@sjvietnam.org) or you can bring it to SJ Vietnam office.

