

News and Events of the LIN Center for Community Development

WLP Hosts Roundtable on Services for PWDs and Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin

On 7 March 2012, LIN organized a gathering of 22 people representing 20 different organizations (including NPOs, companies and universities) in HCMC; these organizations all have one thing in common - they address issues relating to people with disabilities (PWDs), particularly those with severe and multiple disabilities believed to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin. The meeting was hosted by the [War Legacies Project](#) for the purpose of facilitating communication in the hope of furthering discussion regarding the potential for future partnerships between the organizations.



Initially, participants introduced the work they are each doing in the Agent Orange (AO) and/or disability field. Following the brief introductions, Mr. Charles Bailey, Director of the AO in Vietnam Program at [The Aspen Institute](#), gave an update on progress by the US-Vietnam Dialogue Group on AO/Dioxin, which – upon its establishment, recommended a ten-year, \$300 million USD remediation plan to clean-up dioxin-contaminated soils and restore damaged ecosystems, and to expand services to PWDs and to their families. Mr. Bailey shared online reports on funds raised for dioxin clean-up which detailed the sources and uses of over 52 million USD raised between June 2007 and May 2010 compared with the sources of over 20 million USD raised in the last reported year (June 2010 to May 2011). He noted that two times as much of the money raised is directed towards dioxin clean-up, with the remainder allocated to support PWDs.

Dana Doan, LIN Advisory Board Member and Consultant, then offered a *sneak preview*¹ of results from a [CIMIGO](#) survey of Vietnamese individuals on their attitudes and sentiments towards philanthropic causes and not-for-profit organizations. The survey provides valuable information that can help not-for-profit organizations to attract donors and volunteers to their causes. For example, survey respondents said they prefer to support independent Vietnamese organizations and their top three criteria for giving include cause, transparency, and effectiveness. Addressing the needs of PWDs was the second most popular community issue people said they would be likely to support. The survey also revealed that people typically

¹At the time this roundtable took place, the first draft of the survey report was disseminated to the CIMIGO management team and LIN Board of Directors for initial review. We expect to provide the full results of this survey to the public in April 2012.

depend upon direct solicitation and/or word of mouth for information about charitable organizations.

During the roundtable, which was moderated by Ms. Susan Hammond, Executive Director of the War Legacies Project, participants were asked about their current sources of funding. Even though the CIMIGO survey points to a potential local support base for organizations addressing AO/PWD issues, most organizations at the roundtable said that most of their funding comes from overseas (or international organizations). Two organizations said that over 90% of their funds come from overseas.

Throughout the luncheon, participants shared experiences and challenges they faced as they implemented programs for people with disabilities. We heard perspectives from donors and employers of PWDs as well as service providers and fundraisers. While there were different priorities among the participants, the need for improvements to current services was broadly shared by the whole group. The conversation ended far too soon - many people in the room clearly wished to share more and ask more questions of others at the table. Several suggested an on-going dialogue and one participant informed the group that there are existing networks for PWDs and organizations that support PWDs.

“In tackling issues such as Agent Orange and Disability,” commented Ms. Susan Hammond, “it is important for stakeholders to communicate and, very often, to collaborate if they hope to realize their objectives in a reasonable time period to meet pressing needs.”

The [War Legacies Project](#) is a not for profit organization based in the USA that addresses the ongoing health and environmental impacts of war. Ms. Hammond has been working on war legacies issues in Vietnam, including Agent Orange/Dioxin, for the past 15 years.

LIN Center



LIN Center would like to welcome Happy Birthday to our members:

Ms. Le Thi Bang Tam, member of board of directors

Ms. Do Thi Nhu Tam, member of board of directors

Upcoming Events

Training on “Access to Justice for NPO Staff” 2 Saturday (07 and 14 April 2012)

Background:

With funding from the Justice Initiative Facilitation Fund (JIFF), the LIN Center for Community Development (LIN) is implementing a project to “Build the Capacity of Non-State Actors in Facilitating Access to Justice for Vulnerable Populations in Ho Chi Minh City”. The project has two core objectives: (1) to strengthen the capacity of NPOs to facilitate access to justice for the groups they represent; and (2) to improve dialogue and information sharing among civil society organizations on issues relating to the rights of vulnerable groups. After the research from Southern Institute of Sustainability Development (SISD), LIN identified topics and issues to facilitate this training with the support from local legal experts.

Time: The training will be organized from **8 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.** on 2 separate days:
Saturday, 07 April 2012 and 14 April 2012

Venue: *We will inform to confirmed participants*

Contents:

- Why does justice system exists? Components of justice system?
- Flow chart of justice system and lesson learnt.
- Case study and discussion.
- How to access to justice system (GO organizations/office)
- Practice of access to justice system.
- Advantaged and disadvantaged of acces to lawyer.
- Creating a network of CSOs to support access to justice.

RSVP: From now to 5 April 2012 at npo@LINvn.org or tel us at (08) 38246091 (each organization can RSVP 2 committed staff to participate full 2 days of the training).

Fee: There are no fees but participants must pay for their own lunch.

Trainer: Mr. Nguyễn Văn Đức, director of East Sea Law Limited Company ([Supported lawyer of the mother of journalist Hoang Hung murder’s case](#))

Speaker: MA. Đặng Anh Quân, Lecturer of HCMC Law University.

Computer training from the Intel team will be organized on 18 and/or 19 April 2012. Each training has 15 participants (RSVPed). We will inform the RSVPed participants the venue and time a week before the training course.

If you have not registered the date yet, please email npo@LINvn.org. Thank you!

Workshop on Transparency

19 April 2012

Background

In Vietnam, transparency is a relatively new concept. Most Vietnamese NPOs do not pay taxes and have never had to report their annual income and expenses. Typically, NPOs are focused on providing services and do not spend much time reporting back to their stakeholders (donors, beneficiaries, partners, etc...), whether we are talking about an organization's financial health, activities, or program impacts. The establishment of grassroots organizations requires a management board but not a governance board. And, with limited resources, many NPOs have not been able to put much time and/or resources to the important task of promoting internal and external sharing of information among stakeholders, including (but not limited to): NPO staff, board members, donors, beneficiaries and local authorities.

However, this situation may be changing. In 2009, the Government issued Decree 93, on the management and use of foreign non-governmental aid, requiring NPOs to obtain permission and regularly report on the use of all funds coming into Vietnam. Recently, a number of NPOs have submitted themselves to an external audit in order to attract donors and/or comply with donor requests. In order to stay relevant, and continue to receive the necessary support to maintain operations, NPOs must strive for greater transparency.

Objectives: Help NPO staff to understand what is meant when people talk about "Transparency" as it relates to NPO operations.

Learn about different practices and tools that can be applied to promote greater transparency within an NPO (e.g., good financial management, governing boards, regular reporting to stakeholders, auditing).

Explore the links, if any, between transparency and sustainability.

Exchange experiences and lessons learned among NPOs with regards to transparency.

Date: Thursday, 19 April 2012

Time: From 08 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Venue: *We will inform to confirmed participants*

RSVP: NPO@LINvn.org or tel us at (848) 3824-6091 (Mr. Son Pham)

Speakers: Ernst and Young team.

Ms. Nguyen Phuong Linh, director of Research Center for Mangement and Sustainable Development (MSD)

First NPO Advisory Group Meeting in 2012

26 April 2012

Topic: NPO Networking

Objectives:

- Introduce networks of not-for-profit and NGO in Vietnam.
- Discuss the advantages of network.
- Share information among HCMC NPOs.

Date: Thursday, 26 April 2012

Time: From 08.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. (the meeting is organized as a morning coffee.)

Venue: *We will inform to confirmed participants*

RSVP: NPO@LINvn.org or tel us at (848) 3824-6091 (Mr. Son Pham)

Grants Opportunities for NPOs

Justice Partnership Programme
(JPP)

**JUSTICE INITIATIVES FACILITATION FUND
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
(4th Call)**

The Justice Partnership Program (JPP) is the result of a decision of the Governments of Vietnam, Denmark, Sweden and the European Union to harmonize their efforts to support justice sector reform in Vietnam. **The Justice Initiatives Facilitation Fund (JIFF) is component 3 of the JPP aiming to build the capacity of Non-State Actors to contribute to enhancement of awareness of rights, access to justice and to support judicial reforms.** JIFF will call for proposals twice per calendar year from this call to early 2015.

Applicants invited to apply include any organization which:

- Is non-state, non-international and not for profit
- Has a Charter, registered for more than one year, and has a bank account operated by more than one signatory.

(Organization applying for small grants or media or research organizations may be waived from some of the above criteria)

Key Support Areas:

All proposals must address at least one or more of the four key result areas below:

1. Popular awareness of the rights and opportunities the law and justice system provide enhanced
2. Access to independent legal advice and aid improved
3. Understanding of judicial reforms enhanced through research
4. Dialogue and information sharing on matters relevant to judicial reforms enhanced

Type of grants:

1. Small Project Grants and Research Grants less than 280 million VND.
2. Project Grants and Research Grants between 280-700 million VND.
3. Core Funding Grants of up to 2.8 billion VND/year for a maximum of three consecutive years.
4. Technical Assistance and Capacity Development Grants may be available to grantees.

Both hard and soft copy (CD written) of proposal in JIFF forms in Vietnamese, only, and shall be delivered **before 17:00, 2nd May, 2012**, to the following address:

**Justice Initiatives Facilitation Fund (JIFF)
Unit 708, 11 Tran Hung Dao, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi
Phone: (04) 39336034/35 | Fax: (04) 39336040**

Please visit the JIFF website at www.jpp-jiff.org.vn to view more information about the selection criteria, application process and to download application forms.

The Vietnam Civil Society Facility (VCSF) was established at the Embassy of Ireland in Vietnam to support grant funding to short and medium term interventions which have a demonstrated poverty impact or an influencing or testing value, and which are compatible with the Irish Aid Country Strategy Paper's objectives for the period 2011-2015.

The overall objective of the Civil Society Facility is to strengthen the engagement of civil society organisations in support of specific poverty issues and policy formulation processes. The Civil Society Facility will support competitive proposals that contribute to the following objectives:

- (1) To strengthen the voice of poor communities and community-based organisations in local governance and accountability, oversight of public investment programmes and increased economic integration. Particular attention will be paid to ethnic minority populations;
- (2) To promote acceptance and empowerment of people with disability by increasing their social and economic integration;
- (3) To promote the development of the civil society sector in Vietnam through capacity building and networking and collective action in research and advocacy and public.

There will be two funding rounds in 2012, in April and August. Irish Aid is currently inviting concept notes for the first 2012 Funding Round. Applicants are requested to submit a concept note (max 3 pages in length in and in the prescribed format) and a completed Irish Aid eligibility checklist to irish.aid@dfanet.ie

The deadline for receipt of concept notes is 12.00 Friday 20 April, 2012.

Once concept notes have been appraised, short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full technical proposal. Please note that only technical proposals submitted by invitation will be considered by Irish Aid.

For full details on the application process including guidance on the concept note format and eligibility checklist, please visit our website <http://www.embassyofireland.vn/>

Irish Aid will hold two information sessions on the CSF Guidelines:

- 10h00-11h30 Wednesday April 4th, 2012 at the Embassy of Ireland, FI 8, Tower B, Vincom Centre, 191 Ba Trieu, Hanoi.
- 9h00-10h30 Friday April 6th, 2012 at Disability Resource Development (DRD) 91/6N Hoa Hung, Ward 12, District 10, Ho Chi Minh city.

To register for participation, please email

chi.nguyen@dfanet.ie<mailto:chi.nguyen@dfanet.ie> by 30th March 2012, and indicate which information session you would like to attend.

NPO Resources

Collaborate, consolidate, merge – Part I

Nguồn: Richard Male **Hansjuerg Moser** <http://www.richardmale.com/>

Is it time to consider a partnership?

Is there a better way to deliver on your mission? Could it finally be time to seriously explore forming partnerships with other organizations?

Perhaps it's something about the kind of leaders that our sector attracts.

Funders are having to make difficult decisions; those organizations that can demonstrate greater efficiency, service integration, and collaboration will be uniquely positioned to thrive.

Here are some considerations to get you started:

1. Consider sharing, collaborating and/or blending as a proactive move toward more sustainable services to the people you serve.
2. Realistically define what you have to share, and what you would seek from a partner – let's eliminate “dollars” from the equation.
3. Consider relocating to a multi-tenant nonprofit center as a sustainable infrastructure solution.
4. Explore whether your belief in your unique identity/mission is fostering a potentially destructive “go it alone” perspective.
5. Examine misconceptions around collaboration.
6. Accept that the organization who you consider to be your competitor may be the best partner to work together with.
7. Consider that collaboration is a continuum.
8. Research cross-sector alliances (i.e., public/nonprofit, private/nonprofit) for program delivery as well as partners who are other nonprofits.
9. Explore collaboration or merger options.
10. ID what your biggest barrier is to reaching out on a joint project or other collaboration.

Donor's Corner

A. Visit of sponsors to Hoc Mon Social Support Center

On 6th March 2012, a group of potential sponsors, which is an NPO and a partner of LIN, visited Hoc Mon Social Support Center. It was a cozy and intimate meeting between the center's staff and the group of sponsors though the number of people was not many it was still a great success. In 30 minutes, the group was introduced about the organization's (1) history, (2) missions, (3) main activities, (4) organization and personnel, and (5) vital support for development. After that, the group joined in tutoring and dancing activities for around 20 children, grading from 1 to 5. At the end of the visit was a Q&A section between the group and the center. It took about 90 minutes for the whole trip.

After the trip, LIN center had a survey for the potential sponsors and the center. Welcoming the team was a valuable lesson for the center because through this activity, the staff were challenged with showcasing their presentation skills in front of sponsors and had a chance to improve awareness of children's development in suburban areas. Thanks to this occasion, the center realized the necessity of introducing and marketing itself to potential sponsors. Ms. Lan shared, "We are looking forward to organizing another tour with LIN since it is a good opportunity for children to exchange and communicate with the guests. The staff, collaborators and volunteers also have chance to learn and improve themselves. "

The precise presentation and open answers helped the group have a better understanding about human development issues at the center. Via direct contact with the center, they realized how to help or support them, and how to evaluate the effectiveness and the ability of the center to meet the criteria for sponsorship and investment. The constructive comments from the perspective of the sponsors are useful for NPOs to have better improvement in terms of management, program implementation and most importantly the effective communication about the need of support to sponsors or investors.

A member in the group said: "We are very impressed with the direct interaction between the children and their godparents in France that make us believe in the transparency of the center's operation. It is a strength that makes people care and want to have a long-term support."

LIN Center regularly organizes visits to NPOs for individuals, organizations and companies – those who want to contribute or invest in community development, economic and social development. This is LIN's new activity that officially started in early March, 2012.

Through this visit, LIN wishes to shorten the gap between sponsors and NPOs, creating opportunities and direct dialogue with potential sponsors or investors for local NPOs. Besides community activities, fundraising and maintaining relationships with sponsors are also one of the vital issues for the development of NPOs. Thus, LIN wants other centers and organizations to cooperate with LIN to organize more center visits for sponsors so that the organization can practice presentation skills in front of sponsors and communication skills to transfer the appropriate message about needed support or investment to create practical and long-term impact for the community.

B. Thanks to our wonderful donors in March 2012!

The LIN Center was fortunate to receive donations from multiple donors, both inside and outside of Vietnam and we would like to thank all of you for your support to LIN.

- Ms. Nguyen Tran Hoang Anh (LIN board member): 20 million VND
- SIT Study Abroad, www.sit.edu/studyabroad: 2 million VND
- Scanner from C. Melchers GMBH&Co valued at : 5,899,300 VND
- Horizon Capital Advisors supported us the meeting room for the War Legacies Project luncheon and projector for CSIP event.
- Georgetown University supported us to design our 5 year strategic plan.

LIN is raising funds to support our 2012 & 2013 programs and activities. Can you help? We would like to hear from you! **If you have any questions or if you are ready to make a donation**, please send an email or call us at: donor@LINvn.org, 08-3824-6091.

Questions and Answer on LIN services:

I registered to become a volunteer on LIN website, but I haven't gotten a response from LIN. Why? (from a volunteer sending by email).

Thank you for registering to volunteer at LIN. Normally, your sign up information will be sent automatically to LIN's Volunteer Coordinator and your information will go into our database. If we have a volunteer request that meets your skills and interests, we will contact you to schedule an introduction. Otherwise, we will keep your information on file until we receive a request that is a good match.

The fact is that not all individuals who are seeking volunteer positions can be matched. We receive requests for volunteers from our NPO partners. When we receive a request, we search for a suitable volunteer in our database - one that meets the requirements (skills sets, availability, location). Unfortunately, we do face the situation where we cannot find a position for volunteers offering valuable skill sets. We hope that we will get more requests from our NPO partners and we are making every effort to support them in this effort. Moreover, we are trying to be more proactive by advertising volunteer skill sets that are being offered, but not requested. One of these attempts is the newly launched subpage [Meet the volunteers](#) on our website, where we put profiles of potential skilled volunteers, at their approval, in the hope to seek for more volunteer opportunities from NPOs.

For this reason, we really appreciate your understanding and patience while you are waiting for a good match. We hope that you will continue to support LIN in our services to strengthen capacity for our local NPO partners.

LIN Center

If you have any questions/concerns on LIN's services or our services do not meet your needs, please do not hesitate to contact us and share your feedback. Please email us at info@LINvn.org or tel [\(08\) 38246091](tel:0838246091).

NPO Networking

Picture Competition “Day of Children”

The competition is organized by a group of volunteers “Green Dreams” in the spirit of April 18 which is the day we set aside to build awareness about protecting and caring for people with disabilities in Vietnam. The challenge aims to raise awareness about the lives of children with disabilities and to inspire the community through the optimistic attitude and firm belief in the lives of disabled children. This is also an opportunity for the local community to connect to and experience the lives of the children, sharing optimism, gain more understanding and increasing support to less fortunate people.

Key message is: **“Day of children: Let’s share experience and understanding”**

Target contestants:

This competition is for all members of the Green Dreams volunteer group, any volunteer or groups of volunteers and individuals who are interested in community activities.

Timeline:

- Submission of pictures starts from March 13, 2012 to mid-night of April 12, 2012. The picture collection of first place winner will be exhibited and awarded in the “Light and Hope – The 8th scholarship granting event for students with disabilities, 2012” on April 15, 2012.

Prizes:

- First place winner: will receive the prize valued at VND 1,000,0000 for the photographers + VND 500,000 to support the beneficiaries or the organization in the pictures.

- Second place winner: will receive the prize valued at VND 500,000 for the photographers + VND 500,000 to support the beneficiaries or the organization in the pictures.

For more details, please contact Green Dreams group: nhom_uocmoxanh@yahoo.com.
Or visit their website at: www.nhinguocmoxanh.org



Center for Education of the Deaf

Address: 4 Nguyễn Thị Huỳnh, Phường 8, Quận Phú Nhuận, Tp.HCM
Tel: 84-8 6683 7494

Email: founder.ced@gmail.com

Website: www.trungtamkiemthinh.org

CED WARMS UP FUND FOR HEARING AID

From working experiences, **Center for Education of the Deaf (CED)** realizes that because of lacking access to hearing aids, the majority of poor children with deafness cannot fully develop their capacity and are confronted with many challenges regarding social inclusion.

In order to contribute a small part to the development of children with deafness, CED has established the **Hearing Aids Fund** to:

- Support with used hearing aids to poor children with deafness;
- Provide with supportive services to the children (proactive intervention, life skill training) and their families (counseling and coaching, etc.)

Through this announcement, CED hopes that the network of people with disability and volunteers can help disseminate the information of this Hearing Aids Fund to individuals or families with real needs at Ho Chi Minh City and Southern provinces. Also, for the sustainability of the Hearing Aids Fund, CED wants to collaborate long-term with philanthropist or investors from the city or other provinces of Vietnam.

For more detailed information, please contact CED at: founder.ced@gmail.com or maytrothinh.ced@gmail.com



TRAINING COURSE

PARTICIPATORY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1. COURSE INFORMATION

Time : 16 – 19/04/2012

Morning: 08h00 – 11h30; Afternoon: 13h30 – 17h00

Venue: Ton Duc Thang University

98 Ngo Tat To St., Ward 19, Binh Thanh Dist.,
HCMC

Language: Vietnamese

Trainer: Expert Le Dai Tri

2. TRAINING FEE

410,000 VND/ day (Including: documents, study equipments; tea-break).

Certification fee: 150,000 VND (Participants will be offered a certificate provided by Ton Duc Thang University if they successfully finish an examination at the end of each course. Otherwise, they will be offered the certificate of attendance by SDTC).

Certificate transfer fee: 20,000 VND (For trainees who being far away).

Local social staff will be discount 20% tuition (excluding certificate).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Understand the term of needs assessment and the objective contents for assessment.
- Practice planning for assessment by the approach of quantitative investigation.
- Practice planning for assessment by PRA.
- Practice the steps of community development planning.

**FOR ENQUIRIES AND REGISTRATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Ms. Yen – 0977 357 037

Or Mr. Bao - 093 797 5445

Social Development Training Center – Ton Duc Thang
University

Room B009, Nguyen Huu Tho Street, Tan Phong
Ward, District 7, HCMC

Tel: (08) 2242 6789 – Fax: (08) 3775 5055

Email: sdte@tdt.edu.vn or dangthiphuyen@gmail.com

Website: <http://sdte.tdt.edu.vn>

Expired date: 09/04/2012

TRUNG TÂM ĐÀO TẠO PHÁT TRIỂN XÃ HỘI - TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC TÔN ĐỨC THẮNG

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