



SJ VIETNAM
Solidarités Jeunes Vietnam



Wake me up when September ends

Ha Noi turned to autumn when I was typing these words with falling leaves drift by my window.

Truly, I was still excited by last summer work-camp each time I saw lots of picture that we got from each camp. And you? Will you whisper lyric when you hear “Wake me up when September ends” and think about your time in Vietnam as a volunteer?

After 9 years working in voluntary field, it may be said that 2013 is year of success for SJ VIETNAM. We were honored to greet more than 700 volunteers joining 25 work-camps in 6 cities and provinces (Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh, Thai Nguyen, Hai Duong, Nam Dinh and Phu Yen) in the first 8 months. The more diverse our work cam activities was organized, the more positive feedbacks from volunteers we got. Besides maintaining human rights activities (caring, teaching for disadvantaged/disabled children), we were on process to develop our work-camps related to culture heritage & diversity and sustainability & environment (Ho citadel, marine park at Nam Dinh province, Can Gio forest...) in collaboration with Unesco. We specially focused on short work-camps (less than 2-3 weeks) because of suitable timescale for volunteers (most of them were students). They did not only have enough time to contribute for project but also travel couple of days around Vietnam before leaving. Therefore, we ensure that a work-camp got both goals as beginning: work and camp (leisure activities in team or personal).

We would like to say a big thank you to our partners and our dear volunteers who have supported us, have joined us and have played an important role in our success today.



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WHERE SMALL THINGS MAKE YOU HAPPY

Have you ever seen a boy crying when say goodbye with his only 2 weeks friends?

Have you ever seen a kid's smile when they have a new sitting toilette instead of old one after 11 years without cleaning septic tank?

Have you ever seen a "strange" woman- can not say a word in English but tried to collect money to give volunteers breakfast for free, fruit for free, tea-break for free ?

Yes. I totally mean small thing can give you lots of big learning if you could join our work-camp.



"It's great when I saw children's smile" - volunteer said

RENOVATION - SJV 1323 IN PHU YEN CITY

As a longterm agreement between SJ VIETNAM and Tuy Hoa province, we continued to having lots of workcamp in Phu Yen this summer, one was toilet renovation for kindergarten ward 4 from 20/8 to 31/8/2013.

22 volunteers with varied nationalities (16 international and 6 local) experienced living, working together in a common building. We did think that we can not finish all tasks during 2 weeks, especially 5 days with toilet before re-opening of school after summer holiday then we did it – in some aspects, better than our plan at the beginning. We divided into 3 groups to paint a wall for CEC Phu Yen, one repairing toilet the other cooking. We had chance to exchange group everyday and challenge ourself in different roles. Most of volunteers joined this workcamp as the first one in which we have learnt lots of skills without a doubt. Some skills were really helpful for our daily life such as work in team, manage time, keep calm and solve problem when things couldn't run smoothly. Some skills were really new: teach English for children, build a wall, make cement, eventhought speak Vietnamese with local habitant...

Besides work, we had wonderful moment to remember in freetime. We went to eat unique dishes on the street at night, to have karaoke with 4 languages (French, Vietnamese, English, and Japanese), to have toycar racing or to visit beautiful beach and places in Phu Yen.

Thankful for SJ Vietnam in collaboration with sending organisations for giving us wonderful workcamp ever.





MIDDLE AUTUMN FESTIVAL

It's not by chance that Coca Cola – a global soft drink brand run “Happiness factory” as one of the most successful advertising campaign. A very simple reason is that it appealed directly to consumer’s emotional state, need: HAPPINESS. SJ Vietnam is not a factory for sure but we would love to do everything providing that bring happiness to disadvantage people especially children as much as possible.

On the occasion of Mid-autumn festival, we organized 3 events for nearly 700 children. We knew that what we had done was just a small effort for millions disabled, homeless, and poor children in Vietnam, but when it came to the result, it turned out to be our motivation to keep improving and contributing to the community.

In Hanoi, with only 5 international volunteers, we made 250 masks, star lanterns to children in Youth Center and Viet Nam national hospital of acupuncture.

Nowhere in the world you can find children having huge passionate with handmade lantern than expensive toys in the store. And also in nowhere you can see children try to sing, to dance in front of strangers to get an award that was colorful paper mask.

Most of pediatrics are cerebral palsy and autism under 6 years old. They need to be cared all the time but on that day, surprisingly they danced when they saw lion dancing, they did “sing along” with their own language when they saw we sang. A smile of a down’s syndrome child was enough to melt your heart.

At the same time, we had another party for 400 children in 3 poorest districts in Tuy Hoa city. Volunteers from Phu Yen university and staffs of Phu Yen union of friendship organization were the most effective partners and supporters for this event. They gave gifts, they played game with the children and naturally made them believe that there exists a genie in the world who protect kid providing that they were good ones with good marks in school.

Join us next time, and you can see fairy tales are around.

INFORMATION ABOUT NEW PROJECT SITE

Viet Nam National Hospital of Acupuncture founded on 24th April 1982, is the first grade specialized hospital under the leading of The Ministry of Health of Viet Nam.

The National Hospital of Acupuncture has invested by The State of Viet Nam, The Ministry of Health of Viet Nam, also the aids and cooperation from many organizations, the enthusiasm and the contribution of all staffs of the hospital from many generations. To have developed and constructed step by step for a long time, up to present the hospital complete the good background of material and high qualification health staffs, to have the foreign relation with 38 countries around the world in the field of acupuncture and acu-press.

SJVIETNAM started to work with pediatric department from beginning of September in 2013. There are around 250 - 300 patients in hospital at the same time. It depends on level of illness but a process need at least 2 months. They can do anything by themselves even thought to stay standing alone. Everyday they have to take acupuncture once in the morning and the nurses will do massage for them during 30 minutes in the afternoon. It is necessary therapy for patients to help their physical system and cardiovascular system work better, especially poliomyelitis patients.

Their parents can't afford treatment fee for years so that it turns to big problem with hospital.



“Job Fair is great, I can learn lots of job policies in Vietnam and other country. I know what I have to do now to get a good job...”

JOB FAIR FOR YOUTH

As the agreement among SJ Vietnam and 5 other member countries of the project “Localizing National Youth Policies”, we successfully organized the exhibition “Youth Job Fair” in the meeting hall of Phu Yen University on September 15th, 2013. Phu Yen University is located in Tuy Hoa city and is the only one and the biggest education center in Phu Yen province. This is a small sea-city with the population of 871.949 and 50 % is youth. A lot of youth are at the age of working but they have no job. The explanation for this issue is there is no chance for them to accost official recruitment information as well as lacking of professional training. Therefore, this career exhibition – the first time was held – attracted the attention and participation of majority of students from Phu Yen University, young local people as well as local and provincial media agencies.

In the opening, the principal, Union secretary and other 4 lecturers had a presentation about the experience they gained after the training in Philippine. The director of International Training Center, Mr. Chau Van Don, shared a lot of information of

Advanced Youth Policy that he observed and learnt with participants. Besides, he also gave some interesting memories of the trip in Philippine through stories and photos of different countries such as Denmark, Poland, Philippine, Bulgaria, etc...

At the end of the event, young participants were very excited with the Q&A part and culture exchange part such as: performance of Phu Yen Youth Union, International Volunteer of SJ Vietnam and the free-style flash mob of everyone.

Phu Yen University student as well as young local people are very interested in



SJ VIETNAM

SUITE 903, 282 LINH NAM
STREET, HOANG MAI, HA
NOI

TEL: +84.4.22154993

FAX: +84.4.37525190

EMAIL:

INFO@SJVIETNAM.ORG

WEB: SJVIETNAM.ORG

FACEBOOK: FACE-
BOOK.COM/
SOLIDARITEJEUNESS-
VIETNAM

CALL FOR HOST FAMILY

Due to our development and volunteer increasing for 2014, we would like to look for families can host our volunteers at least 1 month especially volunteers in pair.

If you want to practice English with native speaker

If you want to exchange and discover new culture

If you want to travel in other people's shoes

If you want to make friends

If you want to share your room/ your house for people in need for short term

It's your right choice with SJ VIETNAM

Please contact us TODAY to be a very unique partner.

UPCOMING EVENT

1. 17 - 28/12/2013

SJV 1327 : Warm Xmas for disadvantage children (2 available positions)

2. 14-25/01/2014

SJV 1328: Traditional new year for poor children (3 available positions)

