



Report

Follow up Independent Living 21 – 25 December 2009 Hanoi Vietnam

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Background

A new Independent Living Center was launched in Hanoi Vietnam. The center is called “Hanoi independent living center for people with disabilities (HILC)”

HILC is sponsored by The Nippon Foundation and supported by Disabled Peoples’ International Asia-Pacific (DPI/AP)

HILC is a place to practice and train basic skills of living, social and management. This happens in order to allow persons with disabilities to live independently. Knowledge and skill can develop potential to live with or without your family. Also PWD’s have the possibility to join a community which will help them to empower in the society.

Workshop Objectives

1. To share information about IL activity and movement in Hanoi.
2. Sharing IL experience, equal rights of people with disabilities, rights to access to transport, works, facilities, health care and social services from IL participate in IL training from Japan.

Workshop Outcome

1. Participants had the opportunity to learn IL concept and advocacy experience from IL speakers.
2. The workshop enabled participants to share IL experience.
3. The workshop promoted the IL and advocacy in Hanoi.
4. The Mission Team followed up and evaluated development of IL movement in Vietnam.

Chronological action

Day 1 (21 December 2009)

HILC team and DPI/AP team meeting at HILC.

- Share the advantage of IL movement, PA program, PC program, IL program for PWDs (user) and IL concept program.
- Setting the Mission schedule (Field visit, IL workshop in Hanoi and report the outcome of the Workshop)



Day 2 (22 December 2009)

Field Visit

1. **Mr. Van Duc Hoa** (Person with cerebral palsy)



He lives with his mother and uses PA service 8 hr. per day. The PA feels happy to work with him and they encourage each other and have a friendship between them.

Mr Van Duc Hoa provides IL-newsletter. Until now he released 3 volumes. He is very skillful with the computer and in preparing information for the IL-newsletter. Mr Van Duc Hoa organizes the newsletter through asking people to send articles to him. After that he chooses the article and manages the volunteer's assistance to support him to establish newsletter. He would like to issue newsletter both in paper and internet with Vietnamese and English language. Also Mr. Hua is very interested in web accessibility.

2. **Ms. Vu Hai Yen**

She lives in her own house, which is located between her brother's and sister's. She uses her PA 8 hr per day to take care and clean the house for her. In the beginning she was embarrassed to ask PA to assist her in some things. But now it is clearly sensible that she and her PA have a very friendly relationship and can talk about anything.



Ms Vu Hai Yen would like very much to be peer counselor for HILC in the future. But she is very unconfident about her public speaking and her PC skills. Tough in our discussion we discovered that Ms Vu Hai Yen has no reason to be unconfident. And for sure she will make her way in the near future.

3. **Mr. Vu Tuan Tu and Mr Vu Anh Tuan**



Are brothers with the same disabilities and Tuan is the older one. With the support from HILC and the PA they left their family in order to live on their own.

Before they wrote for the ILC both of them worked for the newspaper and TV as freelancer in Hanoi. Mr. Tu and Mr. Tuan already have published different articles in a

Hanoi Newspapers.

They learned English on their own from the internet and TV and are very advanced in the language. The Internet is one of their biggest interests and a possibility to be in contact with the whole world.

Mr. Tu and Mr. Tuan live on their own and use the PA-service for 12 hr per day.

In their opinion during the work time PA and user are employer and employee. But after finish working they are friends. Since they joined the HILC they participate in the IL movement, concerning PWDs interests. This working with and for the community is the key to let them have more friends and a bigger possibility of networking.

Tuan is good at speaking and management organization plan and also highly interested in disability law and advocacy lobbying.

Tu is more skilled in listening, and writing as a self-advocate.

4. **Ms. Nguyen Thi Sam**

Lives with her mother, elder sister and her niece. She is tailor and works at home. She uses PA service from HILC 4 hr per day. Her PA cleans her house and Ms. Sam likes to cook for the PA. The PA heard about this job by her son, who found the news in the internet.



It is one of HILC's guidelines that the PA is working only for PWDs, the family cannot use PA directly.

Ms. Sam is a nice person and a good listener. She was able to explain to us, clearly and simply the IL concept to PWDs.

She wishes ILC can extend PA service in other province that People with Disabilities can use PA service in all parts of Vietnam.

5. DP Hanoi

Hanoi Disabled People Association was established in 2006. In 2008 DP Hanoi had 23 member organizations with 1.300 individual members. Since 2007, DP Hanoi started to establish local branches in the districts of Hanoi as very few people with disabilities are organized in Vietnam¹.



We had a meeting with DP Hanoi to introduce the 2010 activities that will be launched in Vietnam.

1. Independent Living
2. DP Hanoi council
3. ASEAN Community

DP Hanoi supports HILC and co -organized 9 month activities.

The center is known by many different agencies.

MOLISA and SLN Hanoi for example, fully support all 2010 activities, including the preparation plan for Economic independent with subsidy by Government.

Field Visited summary

- All users are very happy with the PA service offered by HILC. They can live their own life by PA assisting their activities. Also they feel

¹Source: PTU

<http://www.ambhanoi.um.dk/en/menu/Developmentpolicy/DanishNGOsInVietnam/DANISHSOCIETYOF POLIOANDACCIDENTVICTIMSPTU/>

that IL-concept and PA service give more confidence to their life. The users learned to live independently and make own decision on their lives now.

- For the PA the service is not only a job, but a part of their life. In the most cases they heard about the service from friends or/and the network which is developing around the university-students. The PAs believe that the service is a prospering field and good work.
- The PA encourages and supports the user in term of being and living independently so that the user is more confident to make their own decisions of daily life.
- Most important about the IL Service in Hanoi is that we could see and learn that the PWDs, who use the PA service, can live a life on their own. They can improve their living-skill in general. Meaning: Managing their own day, to hold down a job, to relocate and live one their own in order to make their own decisions. All these things together is a huge improvement of the life of the people who use the PA service
- Last but not least, through HILC the users and Pas a part of a very interesting and active community. All People we met in our field visits and elsewhere told us, that they meet a lot of new Friends in the community of IL Hanoi. And all users emphasized that since using the PA service they go a lot more out of the house and take part in society life.

Day 3 (23 December 2009)

Field visited Inclusive Development Action (IDEA) and Ms. Nguyen Thi Lan Anh

IDEA is a NGO working on the disability issue. Main objectives of IDEA are the Training on accessibility, job accommodation, group development and peer counseling.



Also the support for establishment of self-help groups of People with Disabilities and the Support of the Disability Forum Vietnam, providing bi-lingual monthly updates and conducting orientation for workplace diversity.

IDEA collaborates with HILC to support to promote IL-movement in Vietnam. IDEA employs 12 staff members including volunteers from both, Viet Nam and abroad. Also there is a strong university-student-volunteer-network in Hanoi. To promote IL movement in Hanoi, media is one of the channels that can be used to inform the wide public about the community.

While IDEA provides the training or activities, IDEA volunteer coordinator will request volunteers to assist activities. IDEA has an intern program that People with Disabilities can join. After absolving this program the people receive a certificate and IDEA will look for jobs for them.

Also IDEA supports person with disability who come to work with them before graduate from the university and after the internal program they also get a certificate from IDEA. After that IDEA support them to find job.

Privately, Ms. Nguyen Thi Lan Anh uses the PA service from HILC. The PA, among other, takes care of her baby at her home, because her baby is part of her and her live.

Peer Counseling and IL Experiences Seminar



Schedule

13.30 – 14.00: Registration

14.00 – 14.15: Opening speech by Nguyen Hong Ha

14.15 – 14.35: Peer counseling – History and development by Vu Tuan Tu

14.35 – 14.45: Objectives and activities of Peer Counseling by Nguyen Bich Thuy
14.45 – 15.00: Q and A
15.00 – 15.30: Break
15.30 – 15.45: Experiences in barrier – free society by Vu Anh Tuan
15.45 – 16.00: PWDs are experts by Vu Tuan Tu
16.00 – 16.15: Experiences taken from concerns of people’s attitude
By Giap This Giang
16.15 – 16.30: Time management and Enjoying accessible transportation
By Nguyen Bich Thuy
16.30 – 16.00: Q and A
16.45 – 17.00: Closing speech by Nguyen Bich Thuuy

Day 4 (24 December 2009)

Report and Summary

HILC is setting the PA service for People with Disabilities (user). Before that the PA and the user meet to discuss the request. Finally HILC will organize the orientation course for user and PA to clarify the duty and guidelines for user and PA.



After the orientation of user and PA, there is the meeting with user families to clarify the duty of PA and user. One of the main aspects of this orientation is to clarify that the

families cannot use the PA. But only the user, who requested the PA can engage his service.

After a successful ‘union’ of PA and user, the user will send his monthly time table plan to the center. PA coordinator will check it and after that pass it to the PA. For any PA overtime is the user on his own responsible.

People with Disability (user) use PA service from the center approximately between 4 – 12 hr per day. There are 2 PA coordinators without disability working at HILC.

HILC is also well supported by the Media (Television, Newspaper). The newspapers wrote about IL and after that university students apply for the job. Almost every PA comes to know about the IL concept and the PA-job through university-networking and from internet information.

PA services program

- Setting PA networking from university students by announcements on their web site. Also HILC tries to extend the networking of the volunteer organization.
- Setting PA program to train and organize the PA's service-skill by develop the understanding level of PWDs needs. Including the PA's character and community skill in order to talk with the PWD's family. The PA gets a certificate after he passes the training.
- Two monthly analyze meetings, in order to share PA experience.
- Strengthen and promote PA service in general. To establish the PA service as a main career by developing university courses and, supported from government, to issue a law concerning a PA career.
- Promote PA service through Media channel as, television, internet, and newsletter and spread the information widely.
- PA orientation course to train PA in 'PA skill service', 'PA character' and 'IL concept'.

PC services program

- Set PC program meeting twice a month.
- PC section encourages the PC be good public speaker, well counselor and identify as a upcoming leader.
- Promote PC service through Media channel as, television, internet and newsletter and spread the information widely.

At present, the ILC Hanoi employs 17 Peer Counselors and 52 Personal Assistants in order to support 43 Users.

HILC apply IL concept, PA service and PC program according to Vietnam's social culture. Strengthen the concept, concrete the strategy, and clarify the destination that IL community means: 'living together with people in society not living alone' was one of the main tasks for HILC in the past and will be in the future.

Day 5 (25 December 2009)

Visited Mr. Nghiem Xuan Tue
(Former Director, NCCD's Office)

He became half paralyzed and uses PA
service from the center.

The former Director of the office of
the National Coordinating Council
on Disabilities of Vietnam (NCCD)
became half paralyzed in the last year.



He is now user of a Personal assistant (PA) from the HILC. He lives in his
house with his wife.

In his position as Director of NCCD he was a very active and supportive
fighter for the disability issues. At the moment he is recovering in his house
in the center of Hanoi. Mr. Nghiem Xuan Tue is a man of great knowledge
and integrity. The whole DPI-AP team wishes him a quick and full recovery,
so that the disability movement has back a very strong supporter.