



DISABILITY RESEARCH AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter

August 2014

INTRODUCTION

Established on 03/12/2013, DRD is a non-governmental organization, non-profit and operated by people with disabilities (PWDs), for the rights of PWDs.

DRD and the community are building a support model based on the rights of PWDs in an effort to promote equal opportunities for PWDs, encourage and create favorable conditions for PWDs to participate fully in all activities like other members in society.

Until now, the DRD has been supported over 3,500 PWDs in HCM City and a network of over 30 disability groups in the southern of Vietnam. With many diverse activities such as introducing internships, employment, skills training, advocacy campaign, moving assistance, scholarships, computers devices, assistive devices, information consultation, peer counseling, propagations, seminars and events raising awareness on disability issues, ... DRD is rated as one of 20 non-governmental organizations efficiently operated in Vietnam and is the leading one in supporting the PWDs to integrate into the community.

DRD would like to send to all sponsors, partners, friends and PWDs community the Newsletter as a channel of information sharing.

Kind Regards.



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The contest has attracted youth and media's attention

Introduction of short filming contest "Remove barriers"

On 23/8 morning, the premiere of the short filming contest "Remove Barriers" took place at the *Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD)*.

Entries shall be no more than 5 minutes in duration. Short films' content shall reflect problems of people with disabilities (PWDs) when participating in transportation, social activities, education, employment, recreational activities ... Short film works will help the community to understand better about the difficulties of PWDs in accessing public buildings, means of transportation ..., therefore encouraging the whole society to act together for PWDs.

Huynh Thanh Thao (suffering from glass bone disease, participating in activities at DRD) said: "I hope the real stories about the life of PWDs will be shared among the community. Thereby, the social barriers that are inadvertently imposed upon PWDs will gradually be removed. "

The contest participants are those who love making film and pay attention to PWDs in HCM City.

The contest was launched by DRD on 15/8 and lasts until 02/10/14 .

For more details, please contact: <http://www.drdvietnam.org/song-doc-lap-tin-hoat-dong/16036>

HÔNG TÂM

Source: Muctim Online

A deep and gentle "Alternative dance song of the rainy season"

After two month suspension for repairing and upgrading, on 22/8/2014 night, the monthly music night of the Life is Beautiful Club returned with the theme The Alternative dance song of the rainy season. The show comprised French romantic songs sung by familiar voices which had won the audience' hearts such as Tuyet Trinh, Quang Trung, Truong Thu, Ha Chuong...together with singer Dong Lan, a sweet, deep and introspective voice who first performed in the program.

The old famous love songs such as Histoire d'amour, Main dans la main, Aline, Manman oh Manman...were resurgent by the two MCs Thanh Tung and Thien Trang's amiable stories and the way they related the stories to the songs. This contributed to removing the gap between the people with and without disabilities, which helped the audience to realize the beautiful and energetic images of multi-talented PWDs.

The music night was the intersection between different generations. The innermost feelings and emotions fully embed in the songs created uniqueness for the Life is Beautiful Clubhouse.

The Clubhouse appreciates the love of the audience and looks forward to seeing you in the show NGO THUY MIEN LOVE SONGS on 26/09/2014.



Doi Rat Dep singing group's performance

Evaluate and approve the youths' proposals

In the enthusiastic support of creating the opportunities for the youths with disabilities to study, work and integrate better, on 30.08.2014 morning, DRD in conjunction with the mentors of the project held a review of the proposal packages to support the youths.

The project board received 17 proposals for support of scholarships, English learning courses, wheelchairs, school supplies (laptops, recorders ...), personal assistant (PA).

After the presentation of all of the participants, the group of the mentors sat down with the project board to evaluate each proposal to evaluate which proposal was realistic and effective, which proposal was necessary for studying and working of PWDs, to adjust the proposals so that they would be more effectively supported.

Through this session, the mentors shared more about their companions whose recommendations let people see the wishes and aspirations for studying and working of the youths with disabilities.

Vũ Thị Mượt



Mr. Qua That Chuan – guest speaker shared sale experience

Lam Dong PWD's Business Club applies Marketing Online

From 8-10/8/2014, the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD) in cooperation with the Duc Trong Association of PWDs (Lam Dong) organized the activities for the business club including sharing about: selling skills, instruction on agricultural-forestry production. The program was sponsored by Irish Aid.

The experience sharing session about selling skills of Mr. Qua That Chuan – Director of the Nguyen Quoc Limited Company of Medical Equipment really engaged the audience. The content was succinct but very useful for those who just started their business or who wanted to run a business in the near future.

Besides, the sharing of Mr. Hoang Huu Chien – the Specialist of the Cultivation office of Lam Dong Province – about the instruction on how to go into agricultural production involving a number of crops such as: coffee, strawberry, carrot...also attracted many members. In this session, the guest speakers answered the audience's questions about the production process such as: how to select the good coffee seedlings, the common symptoms of some plant diseases, how to distinguish fake fertilizers, how to seek for crops that kill weeds, how to look for new crops, how to contact the organizations that support for business and production of the underprivileged.

On this occasion, DRD also officially launched the supporting package of Marketing via the Internet aiming at providing opportunities for the PWDs to boost production and business via the internet, and also supported other traditional business ideas. The program would officially announce the final results on 15/09/2014. .

CTV



DRD's representatives in Korea

DRD & Able Forum promote the sustainable partnership

At the invitation of the KOICA - Korea International Cooperation Agency - and Able Forum – the forum for human rights of people with disabilities (PWDs) in Korea within the cooperation framework of the project to support PWDs' mobility in HCM City, three representatives from the *Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD)*, including Ms. Luu Thi Anh Loan (Deputy Director of the center), Ms. Huynh Kim Phung (Project Officer) and Ms. Phan Thi Rat (Leader of the youth group Breakthrough) had the visiting and learning trip in South Korea from 17/7 - 29/8/2014. This is an opportunity to promote the mutual sustainable relations and opportunities for long-term cooperation which provide more opportunities for PWDs to integrate into the society in Vietnam.

We came to greet several organizations of and for PWDs and learn the independent living model of the centers. With the aim of helping PWDs to integrate into the community, the independent living centers have carried out many activities, for instance: Providing personal assistant, peer counseling, accessibility surveys, policy advocacy, wheelchair repairing, aware-raising training...

The transport vehicles play an extremely important role in helping PWDs to integrate and go out more. With electric wheelchairs, people with severe disabilities in Korea are very confident. They go out so much that we can see them everywhere, the people who are always cheerful and carefree. They go to work, go out, go to the movies, go shopping, go to the park, go to a restaurant without any barriers. During those days, we tried to use all the public transport modes and extremely liked them. At the bus stop, we found that one in three buses is for PWDs with low floor and no steps. Subways have seats reserved for PWDs, free tickets and elevators at the station. In addition to buses, subways, South Korea has taxi services exclusively for passengers with every type of disability with very low fees. Whenever I went to a certain place, seeing the symbols for PWDs makes me very happy because I know that this place is very accessible, and not only me – a PWD, but also the elders, pregnant women and children can easily use services there.

To get such good social welfare services for the PWDs, they had struggled unyieldingly and fiercely. Ten years ago, the PWDs did not just settle at home, but protested to demand their rights; they raised their voice whenever and wherever they were. They also established their own independent living centers, agencies for human rights and policy advocacy. These agencies represent PWDs to monitor and advocate the disability law to be enforced. The movement was very strong and very successful. Nowadays, they continue to fight for a further better life for PWDs.

Our country has had the law on disability but its implementation is not really effective and does not really support PWDs to integrate into the community. All of us want equality and non-discrimination. First, we need to speak up, speak up our own needs. PWDs need to go out more, use public services more frequently, so that the community and the government agencies can see the difficulties and obstructions of the public environment, also the need, the desire of PWDs to participate in social activities just like other people without disabilities.

I believe that with the efforts of each PWD and the support of the government for creating equal conditions and opportunities, Vietnam will soon bring about positive changes for PWDs to integrate best into society and become effective community builders.

Thyra Phan

Sharing experiences of career counseling and job placement for PWDs

This is also the content of the workshop relating to the employment issue for people with disabilities (PWDs) organized by Da Nang DOLISA within two days 21 and 22.8.2014 under the sponsorship of VNAH.

The workshop attracted the attention and participation of representatives from job centers of Dong Nai, Hanoi, the Ho Chi Minh Charitable Center of Training and Offering Job for the Handicapped, Da Nang Association for People with Disabilities, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Da Nang (VCCI).

The workshop addressed a number of issues such as preferential policies concerning jobs and hiring PWDs, corporate social responsibility, working methods with business and PWDs.

On this occasion, DRD was invited to share the experiences of career counseling and orientation as well as job placement for PWDs. The experience of helping PWDs to plan their professional development applying ABCD and the experience of facilitating PWDs' integration at the workplace has been highly evaluated and considered as the standard model of job consultancy and placement for PWDs by the job centers.

Văn Cử



Monthly portrait: *Nguyen Thi Ai Thanh*

Dancing with life on the wheelchair

Have you ever seen a girl with a wheelchair, who is always smile sweetly, dances flash mob although she is disabled? That girl is Nguyen Thi Ai Thanh. She said that: “Now I know how to decide what I want and to be responsible for my life.

A girl is active in communicating, fun with a nice smile, but her eyes seems to be blue, Nguyen Thi Ai Thanh makes persons who are talking to her feel that she has a spiritual strength inside a tiny disabled body. “My first goal of coming to DRD was to find a scholarship for my on-going study.”, said Ai Thanh

Her family is poor plus her old bother and sister was studying at Universities at the same time, Thanh had had to stop her study for 3 years to resign opportunity to her old brother and sister. Then, Thanh actively asked her parents' permission to study at a high school which is far away from home and independently live with a tricycle. She wanted to pass the examination and become a student of a university. Unfortunately, her dream was not supported because she is a person with severe disability. She said that it was her terrible time. She cried day after day but she never gave up. She fought and persuaded her family members of allowing her to live alone and study in Sai Gon with one million VND per month. So, she still lives well in Sai Gon. However, at that time, Thanh didn't participate in any activities except going to school and coming back home. Her life was closed and framed in worries and concerns of future. How will it be?

“After 4 times participating in DRD activities, not because of scholarship, there was something which encouraged me to find a significant thing for my life although I didn't know what it was.”, remembered Thanh. Then, she often goes to DRD although it takes her one hundred thousand VND per week for going by motorbike-taxi. She ignored people's prejudice on her disability that “what does she go to there for?”...

“Actually, I didn't recognize changes inside me until people who ever had prejudice on my disability said that they was really surprised when I look more active, open and humorous”, radiantly smiled and said Thanh.

Now this young girl is a SEO Master and Marketing Online of a private company. Her employer was attracted by her openness, confidence and professional ability at the interview. More importantly, although she still needs assistance from others for her daily activities, Thanh has made her parents and relatives happy and proud, even they encourage her to go out more. Her secret is very simple: openness, honesty and confidence will lead us to success and make us close to people.

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