

DISABILITY RESEARCH AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter

September 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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Global women Lotus Circle visited to DRD

On 16/09/2014 morning, the Center for Disability Research and Capacity Development (DRD) welcomed the delegation of American Women from Seattle, led by Ms. Megan McCloskey, Director of Global Women Network - Lotus Circle. The Delegation consisted of 9 women working in variety of categories and placing interest in women issues. In addition, there were 3 members who are representatives of Disabled Women Club joining in this activity.

In this meeting, Ms. Luu Thi Anh Loan, DRD standing Director, introduced the activities and achievements which DRD gained in the recent time. The stories about disabled women pulling through the difficulty in life to integrate into society were touching and emotionally affected the Guests during the sharing session. In addition to sharing the difficulty of disabled people, Ms. Loan also introduced the Life is Beautiful singing group. With nice faces and sweet voices plus natural performance, this group attracted the Guests' appreciation. Besides, Ms. Nguyen Thi Dieu Trinh, Head of Disabled Women Club also talked about the activities and the challenges faced by Vietnamese disabled women.

After the sharing, there were many questions raised to representatives of DRD and Disabled Women Club. The delegation was very impressed by our achievements and efforts of the disabled people movement in Vietnam.

Thương Thương

Full moon event for children

With the desire to create an inclusive, non-barrier playground to help children without disabilities to properly acknowledge children with disabilities and help them know how to



share and care, the Center for Disability Research and Capacity Development (DRD) in collaboration with CHILDREN'S PARTY co-organized the third Full Moon and Waxing Crescent festival at the Life is Beautiful Club



on 05/09/2014 with the attendance of more than 150 children from shelters, orphanages and Trieu Thi Trinh Primary School.

The children had a happy evening with the lantern drawing competition, lion dance show, magic show, fairy play and meeting with Chu Cui and Chi Hang to parade with lanterns and sing the familiar SONGS of the Autumn Festival.

CTV

The Jiashin Co., Ltd. and its corporate social responsibility

On 1 October 2014, DRD had a visit tour to the Jiashin Co., Ltd. which is professional in producing shoes of Adidas, Puma, Lacoste, Fila...and so on in Long An province

With beneficial policies and welfare for labors, since early 2014, the company has employed people with disabilities (PWDs). The company and DRD had a meeting and discussion about recruitment of labors with disabilities. Up to date, the company employed 12 PWDs introduced by DRD. These labors are appreciated about their working attitude and spirit and their co-workers are impressive.

Now, the company are in the process of making reasonable accommodation for labors with disabilities. DRD is making a plan to conduct a training on how to work with PWDs for the company's managers and staff...

The recruitment is still kept going. Therefore, PWDs have need to work here, please do not hesitate contact us.

Vũ Thị Mạ



Mr. Ted Nguyen – Director of the Opal Printing Ink Co. sharing experiences

Taking care of customers

On 20/09/2014, at 8h00, the Employment Department of the Center for Disability Research and Capacity Development (DRD) organized the regular meeting for the PWD Business Club with the topic “The skills of taking care of old and new customers”. The meeting received sharing from Mr. Ted Nguyen – Director of the Opal Printing Ink Company. In addition to members of HCMC PWD Business Club, there were a number of members from Lam Dong PWD Business Club, staff and collaborators of the BRAVE Project. The meeting was sponsored by Irish Aid.

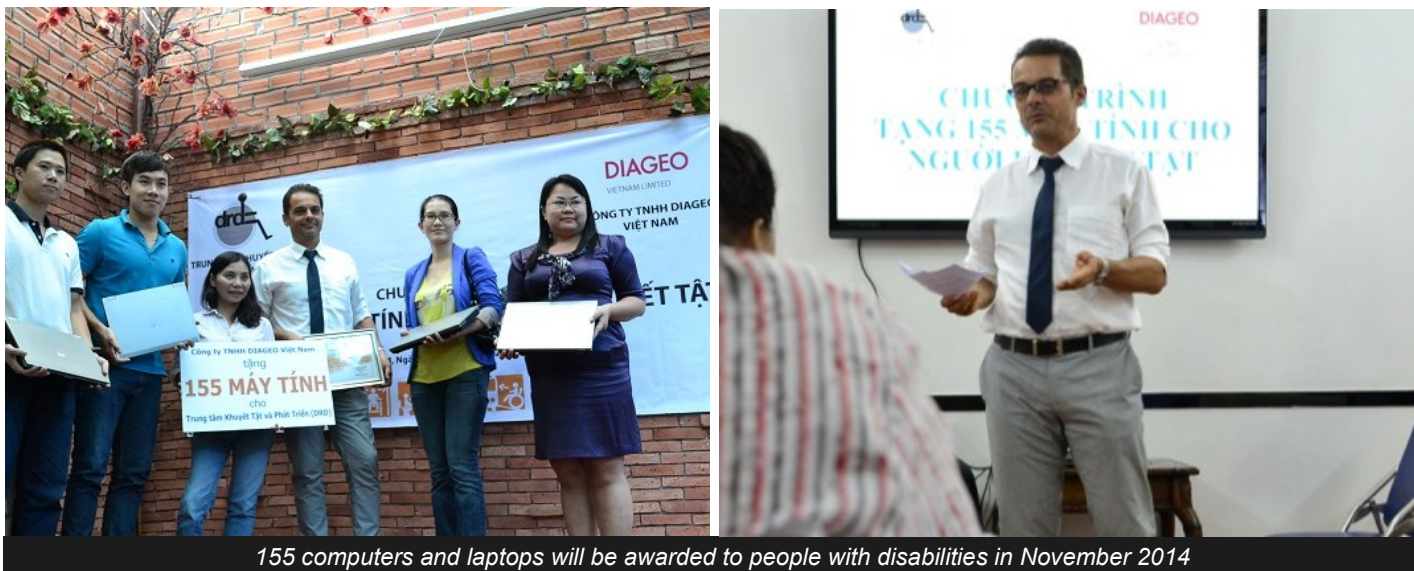
Eliciting from small stories shared by the participants, the guest speaker guided and gave specific examples to facilitate the participants' better grasp of customer care skills, implementation method or some other remarks to ensure the effectiveness of this activity of businesses. The meeting was also



an opportunity for the participants to listen to valuable experiences of doing business from the guest speaker – Mr. Ted often emphasized: How well or poor customer care is practiced depends on attitude rather than skills...

At this meeting, the Employment Department of DRD and members of the PWD Business Club also discussed about the November plan: the fieldtrip to visit and learn experiences from some businesses in Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An, scheduled to take place from 3 to 6/11/2014.

CTV



155 computers and laptops will be awarded to people with disabilities in November 2014

Donate 155 computers for people with disabilities

Following the success of the program of donating 77 computers for the people with disabilities in 2012, the Center for Disability Research and Capacity Development (DRD) continues to cooperate with Diageo Vietnam Limited Company (DIAGEO) to run the program “Donating 155 computers for the people with disabilities”. On 23/9, 14h, the launching ceremony of the donation program took place at the Life is Beautiful Club (91/8E Hoa Hung, Ward 12, District 10). 155 computers donated this time include secondhand laptops and desktops which were tested by the IT department of DRD to ensure they function properly.

The beneficiaries of this program are underprivileged individuals, communities of PWDs who are living, working and studying in the Southern provinces and desire to get their own computer for work and study purposes.

Nguyen Quang Nhi – the blind student of University of Social Sciences and Humanities who received a computer in the 2012 program said *“Since receiving computers, other blind students and I feel like the door is opened for us to expose to a huge online library. The laptop has helped me to study and do exercise more actively, which made me keener on studying and therefore the results were improved. Thank you the donors - DIAGEO and DRD.”*

Mr. Stephane Gripon, General Manager of Diageo Vietnam said: *“We want to contribute to promoting the equal rights for PWDs, facilitate their exposure to technology, increase knowledge, remove barriers, and open the door for them to integrate into the community. We used to work with DRD and feel reassured to continue sponsoring 155 computers for the PWDs through DRD.”*

Ms. Luu Thi Anh Loan, the vice director of DRD also said that DRD will receive applications until 30-11-2014, carefully reviewing in order that the computers will be given to the ones who really need them, helping the PWDs with a device to study and work to increase their income and quality of life.

For more information about the program and criteria to be given a computer, please visit <http://bit.ly/maytinhdrrd>

CTV

Short film making contest's organizers meeting with students

On 16 September 2014, the meeting with 20 students from Van Lang University, Banking University, Finance and Marketing University took place at DRD. It was a part of the activities of the short film making contest "Breaking Barriers" to create an innovative playground that connects young people in HCMC and helps them to know more about difficulties of PWDs, thus making the community more aware of PWDs and take action for the sake of PWDs.

The organizing committee and Director Van Cong Vien shared his opinion at the meeting: "This is a film making contest where the elements of machinery and technology are put aside, only focusing on ideas and stories which can touch the audience's hearts, so you should be more confident, let use your phone or personal camera with recording function to express your ideas..." In addition, director Van Cong Vien also said that he would be willing to support technically for the products with good ideas and messages but technically incomplete so that they could become a meaningful work of communication of community activities for PWDs.

For information regarding the contest, please contact the organizers via the hotline: 08 3868 4858 (#132) for Ms. Ngoc Hieu, (#142) for Mr. Huy Vu.

Ngoc Hieu



Participants with disabilities in peer counseling sessions

Sharing emotions through peer-counseling

In order to provide opportunities for the PWDs to be heard and to share life experiences with their peers, on 09/21/2014, the Independent Living Project of the Center for Disability Research and Capacity Development - DRD, under the sponsorship of Nippon Foundation and the Human Care Association of Japan, organized the "Peer counseling" session for 21 PWDs, including 11 people who first participated in the program.

Especially on this occasion, the peer counseling core group organized this program on their own when they themselves shared the entire content. The shared experiences were passed from the predecessors to the successors on the basis of the equality between the counselors and the clients.

The opening session called "Building relationships" gradually removed the initial unfamiliarity and hesitation, the room was filled with laughter which made everyone more comfortable, closer to each other. With this exhilarating spirit, the participants learned the concept, the formation process and the goals of peer counseling such as "Restoring self-confidence", "Re-building relationships", "Changing society's point of view".

Beside theories, the program also emphasized practicing. All of the participants alternatively swapped their roles with each other in each model counseling session and ensured compliance with 4 principles:

- Divide time equally.
- Keep information confidential.
- No judgment and criticism.
- Do not give advice.

And an extra rule: do not use stimulants such as tea, coffee ... to help counselors and clients to remain their true feelings.

One participant shared, "We have chance to confide our feelings and seem to "live together" with the pain, the joy of our peers."

In the end of the program, when being asked "Do you want to participate in the next program?" everyone shouted: "Yes, we want!" This suggests that the peer counseling activity satisfies the participants' expectations.

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