



DISABILITY RESEARCH AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter

December 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



Trong số này

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Vietnamese artists' expressive performances at the festival

ASEAN Festival of Disabled Artists 2014

ASEAN Festival of Disabled Artists 2014 was organized by the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI) in Yangon and Naypyidaw, Myanmar on December 3-7 / 12/2014 with the participation of 168 artists from 10 countries. Vietnam delegations including artist Ha Chuong, Phuoc Ben Tre and Phuoc Dat left a good impression to the audience with combination between traditional and modern instruments through traditional Vietnamese's and Myanmar's song.

The purposes of the festival is "to raise public awareness on the ability of persons with disabilities through artistic activities (education), to change attitude towards disability through the abilities of persons with disabilities in arts (perception), to empower youths with disabilities and aspiring as role models (empowerment), to promote the collaboration with the business sectors for future sustainability (fund-raising), and to establish an international network among artists with/without disabilities in ASEAN region (networking)".

The festival included various types of arts such as traditional dance, dance in a wheelchair, instrumental ensembles, orchestra, singing, and painting has attracted more than 2,000 attendees. 12 performances by artists with disabilities left a good impression in the hearts of the participants, again confirmed the capacity and the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in social activities, especially in the field of art.

Receiving the invitation of Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI), Disabilities Research and Capacity Development (DRD) and 3 artists Ha Chuong, Phuoc Ben Tre and the QUốc Dat joined the festival. With careful preparation, the performance combining traditional instruments - monochord, sen, Vietnamese guitar, and flute - with modern music and famous Myanmar DJ brought to the interference between Vietnam and Myanmar music.

Through the music festival, DRD had the opportunity to introduce and share the activities of the disability community in Vietnam as well as learn from the experiences of MILI and other associations in Myanmar.

CTV

Life is not all about receiving

Following the success of the Christmas event 2013, afternoon of 21th December 2014, Đột Phá- group of the disabled youngsters, with a support from DRD collaborating with the disabled women club and FIAT volunteer group, held the "Welcoming Christmas" event the second time at Nam Hung shelter which located at 53/8 Thong Nhat 2 street, Tan Thoi Nhi commune, Hoc Mon district. With the aim of interacting with the poor-background kids in the orphanage, of making them a happy Christmas along with to promote the group's spirit which is "people with disabilities not only receive but also know how to give".



The "Deer car" performance from the kids filled the shelter with cozy Christmas atmosphere. In addition to interacting with the children through singing performances, games, magic shows, wheelchair dancing; our group also gave them 30 presents, 6 scholarships sponsored by donors, youths in order to encourage the kids to study hard. Each gift valued 100,000 dong while each scholarship valued 500,000 dong.

The event attracted more than 90 participants, raised almost 9 million in cash and many kinds of gift such as rice, cookies, candies, school supplies. Furthermore, thanks to the meeting, there is a significant increase in our staffs' skills, such as event planning, teamworking, fundraising, organizing.

To promote a message that PWD not only receive but also can give away in many kinds of way, Welcoming Christmas will continued to be held next year.

Kim Phụng

Training on how to assist people with disabilities at Suoi Tien tour site

On 27/11/2014, DRD organized a training for 100 volunteers on skills of supporting people with disabilities (PWD) in the "Kindhearted and affectionate" event at Suối Tiên amusement park. The event was held by Suoi Tien Culture Tourist Corporation và Labour, War invalids and Social Affairs Department to celebrate World Disability Day on 3/12.

Having held big events for PWD for 15 times, Suoi Tien Culture Tourist Corporation has paid more attention to difficulties of PWD as using small-scale constructions and installing small steps for PWD easily move their wheelchairs. This was one of the remarkable improvements of Suối Tiên theme park's board of directors.

Talking with Mr. Lê Tiến – HCMC Youth Union's Social Affairs Center, he hoped that the organizers and DRD would have more time to work and train skills for the volunteers along with providing PWD-supporting skills for students. This also made PWD feel more relaxed when taking part in activities.

CTV



Winners at the ceremony

Award ceremony of the short film contest "Breaking barriers"

In the morning of December 21st, at the Hoa Sen University (8 Nguyen Van Trang street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City), the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD) held the award ceremony of the short film contest "Breaking barriers" (BB).

The participants were representatives from the Human Care Association, the HCMC Office of Construction, the HCMC Traffic Cooperative Alliance, the Film University 2, the Organizing Committee (OC), the judges, the contestants, disabled people and students.

Two months after its launching, the OC and the judges had received 31 submissions from 22 teams of disabled people, students, and semi-professional crews. It was the first time that a short film contest about accessibility issues facing by people with disabilities (PWD) was organized in our country.

The director Van Cong Vien, representative of the judges, shared: *"In the 31 projects, some films are very professional; other works have a very good cinematographic approach, presenting the stories in a very realistic and touching way. The commitment and participation of the community is beyond my expectation as well as the one of the jury and the OC. Through this contest, we have a better understanding of the accessibility difficulties of PWD. On Behalf of the jury, I would like to thank DRD helping us to give our expertise and contribute to a better understanding of the community about PWD."*

The results of the contest are: the first prize was awarded to the short film "Khóc ngược" of 17 Production; the second prize to the short film "Giấc mơ" of Dang Huy Tam and his friends; the third prize to the short film "Chuông gió" of Ngo Ngu Binh. The works "Thử thách xe lăn" of Nguyen Ngoc Tan received the impression prize; the creativity prize was awarded to Duong Minh Loc for the cartoon "Fly Butterfly". Two encouragement prizes were given to the films "Lời của mẹ" of Hoang Xuan Loc and "Phá bỏ rào cản" of Trung Hau.

All the short films can be seen on DRD Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/drdvietnam>.

Thương Thương



Bussinesspeople’s perspectives on employing people with disabilities

On December 23, DRD organized a workshop reviewing the research result of the “HCMC businesses’ perspectives on employing people with disabilities”. The research was conducted by the HCMC Research and Development Institute from April to November 2014 as per the order of DRD to assess generally the situation of recruiting and employing people with disabilities (PWD), whereby make recommendations and suggestions in order to raise the awareness of the businesses with regards to PWD and job placement for PWD. Attending the workshop was representatives of the HCMC Job Brokerage Center, Dong Nai provincial Job Brokerage Center, PWD’s companies, employers of PWD, and social works students in HCMC.

A survey of 30 companies that either employ or do not employ PWD in HCMC showed that most of the companies were not sufficiently aware of policies and legal regulations related to PWD. In some of the companies, PWD receive lower salary than the others (the reason was given that productivity of PWD was lower than people without disabilities). Beside 27/7 Company (under the Department of Labor Social Affairs and Invalids) who directly hires PWD as a preference provided by a state-owned company, there are only 9 companies being certified enterprises dedicated for PWD whose business activities consist of garment, manual printing, loud speaker manufacturing, healthcare (massage)... Based on the statistics of the HCMC Labor Market Information and Human Resources Demand Forecast Center, the number of PWD within labor age that has demand for job placement is approximately 15,000 people. From 2011 to 2015, forecasting demand in human source shows that each year the City will attract more than 280,000 working positions (including 120,000 new spots), in which there are some professions that might appeal to PWD such as information technology, electricity- electronics, accounting, tailoring, leather shoes-making, handicrafts, etc, on average. However, according to the survey of the researching group, the city still have no specific solutions for the problem of linking between the market demand and the laborers.

Sharing the same thought with the previous result, it is said that the enterprise still keep its opinion as PWD have no abilities and recruiting PWD only for the charity purpose. Furthermore, supporting and investing in them can be costly. For example, transportation needs to be provided or communication needs to be supported as for the mute-deaf people, etc. Besides, PWD still feel a complex, they are too shy to show off their capacities. Those are great barriers that prevent PWD in the job-seeking process.

To enhance working opportunities for PWD, delegates recommended PWD should initiatively learn to hone their knowledge and working skills. Plus, for-and-of-PWD organizations should create helpful and healthy playgrounds combining with interactive activities and the media firmly in order to change the companies’ viewpoints on PWD. Once these components are combined effectively, employing PWD will not be as limited as it is now.

Mrs Trần Thị Trung Thuận, Director of Thiên Tâm Co.Ltd shared: “ When we found the company and create jobs for PWD, we didn’t do charity works but it was society responsibility. I agreed that we need to accept the abilities of PWD but not to compare those with non-PWD’s. As reality showed, there are so many PWD have higher working quality than non-PWD. Which means that it was not that the PWD don’t have what it takes but it was that they don’t have a suitable environment to perform”. Mrs Phan Thị Thanh Tâm, member of FAGI Trading and Services Co.Ltd, was a person with disability working for a company recruits PWD, emphasized: “I think that though we can’t provide for the PWD with everything, at least we can provide them with the opportunities to work, which happens to be the best”. Mrs Võ Thị Bích Ngọc- HP professional of Vietnam AIG Insurance Co said: “when recruiting PWD, our company and others really want to find out what PWD need and how to create a proper environment which supports and fits PWD, how to make them feel be respected”.



“One World for All” at the British Council in HCMC

On December 3, on the occasion of the International Day of People with disabilities, the Disability Research and Capacity Development Center (DRD) collaborated with the British Council in Vietnam to propose activities as part of the program “One World for All” at the British Council of HCMC (25 Le Duan, District 1). 40 staffs and teachers of the center tried to take the place of people with disabilities (PWD) by sitting in a wheelchair, trying to walk in the British Council with a blindfold.

Right after this exercise, Mrs Luu Thi Anh Loan, Acting Director of DRD shared about a society without barrier, an egalitarian society for everyone. This practical experience at the British Council aimed to help participants to directly experiment the difficulties of PWD at school, at work, and in social activities.

This event was part of the activities “The British Council in Vietnam accompanies the International Day of People with Disabilities on December 3rd” with the message “Understanding each other for mutual development”. This program is part of the activities around “One World for All” run by DRD. It has been organized in 9 Universities, Colleges and Culture House in HCMC since 2012.

Mr Jon Glendinning, Director of the British Council of HCMC explained: “Equality Policy, Diversity and Respect for everyone is the focus point of our cultural relations. The British Council always encourages people with disabilities to apply when we hire new staff. The British Council also has visually impaired students who are learning English and passing IELTS exams. So when disabled students are passing IELTS examination, we will provide candidates with documents in Braille for the reading exam. DRD has always given useful advices to help the British Council to check the accessibility of the center for people with disabilities and has organized this experiment. In April next year, we plan to organize activities in collaboration with DRD about diversity on the occasion of the Vietnamese National Day of care and protection of People with disabilities”.

Thương Thương

Contact us:

Disability Research and Capacity Development (DRD)

91/8E Hoa Hung Street, Ward 12, District 10, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Phone: (+848) 3868 4858 - 3868 3149

Fax: (+848) 3979 8815

Email: info@drdvietnam.com

Website: www.drdvietnam.org