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# XICH LO

NEWS

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The newsletter of Vietnam and Friends  
No.3/ December 2011

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Dear Friends!

Hanoi comes into early winter when the northeast monsoon overflows through the chilly streets. Gone with the wind, Milk floral crept into every house, every street corner. Each season is marked by special events. In November, the Vietnamese eagerly toward **Vietnam Teacher's Day 20-11**. From the past, **Vietnamese** always respect **The Teacher**. Vietnamese often say that *"A word is teacher, half-word is teacher"*. So in this occasion, the generations of student usually try to tribute their teachers. This is the opportunity for musical activities and exhibitions ... to be held to honor the value of the teacher. In particular, there are many teachers who devoted their whole life to teach the special students such as those students with disabilities, visual impairment, and difficult circumstances. Teaching normal students is a very difficult job, so we can understand the hardships of the teaching disadvantaged students. They overcome many difficulties to help the unfortunate children can have a brighter life. Their contribution is uncountable. **Xich Lo News No.3** send gratitude to all the teachers, who contribute their efforts for cultivating people career.

In November, **VAF** welcomed **Amrey KAUERT** (Germany) and **Pascal DUHAMEL** (France) for the project Supporting blind people in Hanoi.

**Xich Lo News No.3** will bring to you the information about outstanding activities of **VAF** in recent time. Especially, we will talk about the activities of blind students towards **Vietnam Teacher's Day**. In addition, we will meet again the culturist Huu Ngoc through writing of the **Vietnam Teacher's Day...** This writing will make you more understanding about **"Teacher Students relationship"** in the past and now.

We truly hope you will enjoy reading our **December's Newsletter - Xich Lo News No.3!**

Best Regards,

**VIETNAM AND FRIENDS**



# Activities

Candidates of MICC School



After a period selected through interviews, **VAF** has recruited eight students attended the **Micc School** that was held in **Poland** in April 2012. 8 students, who were selected, showed their best to overcome the many other candidates from many different high schools in Ha Noi. This will be the student representatives of **Viet Nam** attended the project aimed at raising awareness on intercultural and humanitarian project for young people. This is the opportunity to exchange, learning and intercultural for Vietnamese

students because this project has the participation of students from many countries around the world. Young students will contribute to reduce the propagation conditions of gender equality in society in the future. **VAF** wants to cooperate with more partners to carry out these projects for young people like that because in developing countries, in particular in **Viet Nam**, young people will play important role in solving social problems.



No.	Name and Surname	Grade	Name of High School
01	Le Minh Anh	<u>10<sup>th</sup></u>	Tran Hung Dao High School
02	Nguyen Hai Chau	<u>11<sup>th</sup></u>	Lomonosov High School
03	Le Nguyen Thach Ha	<u>11<sup>th</sup></u>	Hanoi – Amsterdam High School
04	Bui Ha Linh	<u>10<sup>th</sup></u>	Tran Hung Dao High School
05	Nguyen Thuy Linh	<u>10<sup>th</sup></u>	Hanoi – Amsterdam High School
06	Tran Hoang Thien Nga	<u>10<sup>th</sup></u>	Tran Hung Dao High School
07	Nguyen Phan Ngoc Nuong	<u>10<sup>th</sup></u>	Hanoi – Amsterdam High School
08	Dang Thi Thao Trang	<u>11<sup>th</sup></u>	Chu Van An – Hanoi High School



## One day in Nguyen Dinh Chieu School's movie.

*"When the sun wakes up in every morning, my mother goes to field, I go to school, and my village is bustling singing..."*

(The lyric of children song " My happy", writer: Nguyen Huy Hung)

I have heard that song from the little students of E class. The song is an inspiration to VAF made documentary "One day in Nguyen Dinh Chieu School". In one day, Prisca Goullet and Dang The Lam will follow visually impaired students from 5:30 to the end of the day 22:00. Through this film, VAF would recommend the daily live of visually impaired pupils beside the time students in class.

Normally, what people often know about the Blind children in Nguyen Dinh Chieu School are the learning activities and community activities of the children. But after all that activity is a very diverse world in which these difficulties, the energy, the joys and the sadness of the children is expressed through everyday activities. Seen daily live of the children, you will know more about the live of visually impaired children in Nguyen Dinh Chieu School in particular and of the blind in general. We want to give you real insight about the daily activities of the children and thus more people will understand that they had to try how to get a normal life like everyone else. Join with us for one day and you will have more understanding of the another world.

Let's see One day in Nguyen Dinh Chieu school movie on VAF's website.

[www.vietnamandfriends.org](http://www.vietnamandfriends.org)

## "Nghệ thuật vượt qua thị giác"

Ceramic exhibition (Art beyond the sight)

There are many ways to interact with art, as there are ways to create works. "Art beyond the sight" is the particular way in which authors cannot see his works. Creative authors exposure to the work by heart, by soul and with all the senses except for his eyes ...

Mini Art house of Nguyen Dinh Chieu School- the art house of the blind children. After 5 years in operation, Mini Art house has developed considerable aesthetic quality, quantity as well as experience and inspiration to create the work. To promote and encourage their confidence to pursue the path of art, Nguyen Dinh Chieu School organize the second show "Art beyond the sight" to show the paintings and sculptures of blind students in Vietnam Fine Art Museum, 66 Nguyen Thai Hoc, Hanoi.

The exhibition aims to celebrate "Vietnam Teacher's Day 20.11," responding to "International Day of Disability 3.12", as well as a profound thanks and acknowledgment of the teachers and is to share to disable people with in Vietnam in particular and worldwide in general. Our message through the exhibition is: How to change prejudices in the minds of the community and society: the disabled are incapable and useless, by demonstrating that if given the opportunity, even the most disadvantaged people can contribute for community.

## Music competition

November is always bustling by Viet Nam's Teacher Day, 20.11. Joining in this atmosphere, the Nguyen Dinh Chieu School will hold a music competition for students. The competition is the opportunity to exchange and increase integration of brightens eyes students and visually impaired students. This is also a good opportunity for students of Nguyen Dinh Chieu School to demonstrate their capability. The competition will be held with diverse exams such as national instruments, guitar, singing ... The students' competitive items will be present sent to all teachers. All members of the organizing Committee as well as the students are eager to prepare and forward to the day of the contest to show their abilities.



## High Duong blind association

In November, Nguyen Dinh Chieu School along with the Hai Duong Blind Association has organized field trips for the visually impaired children Nguyen Dinh Chieu School. The aim of this field trip is to help the children to learn more and have oriented their careers after the field. This Trip helps children have more opportunities to interact with the other blind friends in Hai Duong province. Moreover, this trip is chance for many blind children can met and exchanged with each other and with teachers on professional issues in the future after they have graduated. With many effective blind supporting model, Hai Duong province Blind Association has advised and helped Nguyen Dinh Chieu Blind School' students a lot about the craft suitable for the visually impaired. If the blind people can look for a job that help them earn money and can afford to their life themselves, they will feel confident and can access to the society very well. In the future, Nguyen Dinh Chieu school will hold many more trips for the children in order to help them can access to many models like that.





- SỞ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO HÀ NỘI
- TRƯỜNG PTCS NGUYỄN ĐÌNH CHIẾU
- NGÔI NHÀ NGHỆ THUẬT (MINI ARTHOUSE)
- BẢO TÀNG MỸ THUẬT VIỆT NAM



*Chào mừng lễ khai mạc triển lãm*

**NGHỆ THUẬT VƯỢT QUA THỊ GIÁC**

*Art beyond the Sight*





## Halloween party in Fisher village



The highlight of October is **Halloween festival** takes place everywhere in the world. On 31/10, **SOBT, VAF** and **IGO** co-organized a little party on **Halloween** with the students at **Fisher village** on the **Red River**. This is a happy little party of students and volunteers. The students were taken part in many different games in **Halloween** and thereby they can learn more about many the traditional custom of western countries in this holiday. Particularly for international volunteers, the party is unforgettable emotions while volunteering time in **Vietnam**. These activities, these games made volunteers and the disadvantaged children get closer. The joy, the laughter of the children is great encouragement for the volunteers. They brought out their best enthusiasm for trying to bring to the children the simple joys in life. Events like this will often be organized and they will be unforgettable images for everyone.





# My two months and half

## Prisca Goullet

My name is **Prisca** and I come from **France**. I am 22 years old and I am currently studying International Management in a university of **Paris**. I decided to come to **Vietnam** because I have always been attracted by **Asia**, and **Vietnam** was one of the countries, which I dreamt to visit once in my life. Thus I applied in a French organization for a humanitarian project in **Vietnam**, and especially in a **NGO** located in **Hanoi** called **Vietnam and Friends**, caring for disabled and people in need. My main mission here was to assist the director of **VAF** in every single mission of project's coordination, including, communication, search of sponsors, administrative and promotion tasks etc...

I really enjoyed this part of my humanitarian project, which constituted actually the main part of my mission in **Vietnam**. But besides this mission I also had to take care of a new project from **VAF**, which was the organization of a mixed class in the **Nguyen Dinh Chieu School**. The concept of this mixed class was of gathering some visually impaired students and sighted students in the same **English class**. In total I had around 45 students in my class (4 blind students among them) and I have to say that this was a big challenge for me, more important than the challenge of assistant in the project's coordination in **VAF**. Indeed the goal of this mixed class was to better integrate the blind student among the sighted students, and make them feel like any other children from their school. Of course, I had to turn my attention more on the blind students than on the sighted students as they were shy and intimidated by the other students, but I realized that they were as eager

to learn as any other students from the class.

Thus when I understood that it was easier for me to teach them English and provide from this wonderful new project. For sure it was not that easy for me to handle such a numerous class but this was part of my challenge in Vietnam and maybe this contributed to the good memories I am going to keep from this experience.

As a balance of this project, I would say that the idea of a mixed class is great, as it enables to erase some stereotypes existing about blind students and also enables the blind students to feel totally normal. I really enjoyed being part of this new experience as it learnt me a lot even though in this story I was supposed to be the teacher.

On the other hand, my experience as assistant of **Lam** in the **VAF's** project also taught me many things about the **Asian NGOs**, the **Asian culture** and especially the Vietnamese culture. I was able to see everything from an inside point of view as being a volunteer for **Vietnam And Friends**.

My last advice for the future volunteers would be to provide from every single moment of this experience as it is unique and you will remember it for a long time. Now my mission in **Vietnam And Friends** is over but I can say that the experience in the blind school with the blind students was for me rewarding and the time I spent here in **Vietnam** made me want to come back again as I had such great moments there. I hope this few lines gave you the envy to know more about this wonderful project and maybe even take part in it. **Prisca from France**.



# Teacher and student

## Huu Ngoc

The other day I received a letter sent from California by Mr. X, a colonel in the former Sài Gòn Army. He said he was student of mine more than forty years before, at the beginning of the First Indochina War, when I was teaching at a school, which had been moved from Nam Định to the countryside.

Mr. X recalled a class in English I gave in a dilapidated parish church one rainy afternoon. The lesson was *The Arrow and the Song*, a poem by Longfellow which speaks about an arrow and a song that may be found by chance on an oak or in a friendly heart long after be arrow has made its flight in the air.

Another student of the same course, a professor of literature who went to the United States after the liberation of Sài Gòn in 1975, confided to me: "Of all human sentiments, the one that binds a students to his teacher is the most tender, most durable."

True, this is a tradition in Vietnam. Now, after more than thirty years of war, despite ideological differences, teachers and students from two sides of the barricade are extending their hands to each other in the spirit of national reconciliation.

Confucian ethics which exerts a strong influence on the Vietnamese maintains that "teacher-student relationship" constitutes one of the "three principal social ties" (tam cương) and that it even transcends "father-son relationship." A teacher in the old days would command greater respect than a father did because he was one's spiritual father.

In Vietnam, a school instructor, who taught the Chinese characters, was regarded as a country intellectual. He might be a candidate who had failed in one of those triennial literary examinations, or who had passed and had received but a modest title.

Or he might be a retired mandarin. The teacher would give classes at his home or at the house of one of his students. He would not take money, because his belief being that teaching was something very sacred, but would only accept board and lodging provide by the parents and the care given him and his family by the student body, which was also responsible for his worship after his death. Former students, even those who had become powerful men, would have to keep their heads bowed in his presence.

It goes without saying that such a teacher would have to be a model of wisdom, erudition and moral uprightness. Typical of his moral rectitude and intellectual probity was **Chu Văn An** in the 14th century who had the rare courage to petition to the king demanding capital punishments to seven fawning mandarins.

The veneration of teachers was maintained even under French colonization, though with less zeal because of the influence of new ideas from the West. One lesson in *Quốc Văn Giáo Khoa Thư – Lớp Đồng Ấu* (First Grade Reader) says how Lazare Carnot, a man with many military exploits, one day made a surprise visit to his former teacher at the same humble village school.

The **August Revolution** of 1945 brought democracy to school. First through forms of address: students were asked to call their teacher "*Anh*" (Elder Brother) or "*Chị*" (Elder Sister). Later, through the long years of war accompanied by big changes in economy and society, the "teacher-student relationship" deteriorated a great deal. Now, efforts are being made for a return to tradition. First, again, through forms of address, it is now "*Thầy*" (Master) or "*Cô*" (Mistress) instead of "*Anh*" or "*Chị*". Still, the ideal would be to combine respect and love.

(Wandering through Vietnamese culture)



LIÊN HOAN VĂN NGHỆ

CHÀO MỪNG

SÀNG

GIÁC

2007

