VIETNAM'S COUNTRY REPORT

Country report at The 7th ASEAN and Japan High level officials meeting on Caring Societies "Toward an Inclusive Society", August 2009

Following the participation of the Vietnamese delegates to The 6th ASEAN and Japan High level officials meeting, in August 2008, a team of Japanese assessment delegates led by Mr Tanaka, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division of The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan (MHLW) came to Vietnam. They had a meeting with The Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH). According to the assessment, the content of the 6th meeting Vietnam took part in was put in building policies related to health and Welfare in Vietnam. Furthermore, relating to this field, there is a close cooperation between the two Ministries, especially among Vietnamese participants in the 6th ASEAN and Japan High level officials meeting. Within the framework of The ASEAN and Japan High level officials meeting and with the commitment of the Japan's MHLW to support ASEAN countries, JICWELS and JICA were authorized by the Japanese Government to hold a training course on Welfare Policies for High level Officials in Japan in 2008, one official from MOLISA was chosen to take this course.

A. Situation

I. General information:

a. GDP per capita (2008):

PPP GDP: 3,100 USD

Foreign –exchange rate GDP per capita: 720 USD

b. GDP growth rate (2008): 6.28% (8.5% in 2007)

c. Poor household rate (2008): 13.1%

According to the national poverty level, it is 200,000VND/capita/month for rural area (equivalent with 12USD/capita/month) and

250,000VND/capita/month (equivalent with 15USD/capita/month) for urban area.

d. Urban population (2008): 28.7%

e. Budget for social protection (2008): 1.5%

f. Budget for education (2008): 20%

g. Budget for Health (2008): 8%

II. Demography (2007)

1. Natural population increase rate: 1.2%

2. Birth rate: 19.58/1,000 people

3. Death rate: 6.14 dead /1,000 people

4. Child mortality rate below 1 year: 16/1,000 live birth

5. Child mortality rate below 5 year: 32/1,000 live birth

6. Life expectancy:

Total population: 71.35 years old

Male: 68.86 years old

Female: 74.02 years old

7. Total fertility rate: 2.07 children (2007); 2.08 children (2008)

III. Population (2008)

1. Total population: 86,200,000 people

2. Age structure:

+ 0-14 years old: 27.4% (male: 12,200,000 and female: 11,500,000)

+ 15-64 years old: 65% (male: 27,700,000 and female: 28,200,000)

+ Above 65 years old: 7.6% (male: 2,900,000 and female: 3,700,000)

B. Situation of children with disabilities

I. Statistics on children with disabilities:

At present, in Vietnam, there has been no official statistics on the situation of children with disabilities, apart from the number of 1.2 million children with disabilities based on some partial surveys' findings of social protection system belonging to MOLISA, CPFC, MOH, etc. In fact, Vietnam has not yet made any country's overall survey of this situation.

However, this Report is based on some findings as follows:

- National Statistics Data Collection (GSO 2003);
- Sample selection surveys covering 648 households having children with disabilities by MOLISA and UNICEF (2003) with the following result:

People with disabilities in Vietnam occupies 6.3% of the total population in which the number of children with disabilities are 662,000 (making up 2.4% of the number of children from 0-18 years old). 70% of the causes are due to congenital malformation, agent orange after- effect, then wound accidents caused by traffic, mines and finally by diseases.

1. Statistics on children with disabilities:

a. Visually impaired group :(14%)	~ 92,680 children
b. Hearing impaired group (9)	~ 59,580 children
c. Group with speech difficulty (7%)	~ 46,340 children
d. Group with mobility difficulty (29%)	~ 191,980 children
e. Mentally disabled group (7%)	~ 46,340 children
f. Psychiatrically disabled group (17%)	~112,540 children
g. Other (17%)	~ 112,540 children

2. The number of Health and Welfare Center for children with disabilities:

- More than 500 Social Protection Centers, 20 Orthopaedics Centers and community – based rehabilitation Centers under the management of MOLISA;
- 56 Rehabilitatiion Wards in Hopital at Province /City level, 160 community – based rehabilitation Centers at district level and 1650 community – based rehabilitation centers at commune level under the management of MOH.

3. The number of staffs working in the field of Health and Welfare for children with disabilities (not statistics)

4. Total budget for Health and Welfare for children with disabilities (no statistics).

II. Legal document of children with disabilities:

1. ***Ordinance on people with disabilities:***

The ordinance was issued by The National Assembly of The Socialist republic of Vietnam in July /1998 to improve the responsibility of The State, community and family for caring and protecting people with disabilities. Furthermore, it states the basic rights of people with disabilities to health, education, employment and taking part in social activities.

2. ***Law on education for children with disabilities:***

The Law was issued by The National Assembly of The Socialist Republic of Vietnam in December, 1998. It stipulates the rights and issues relating to education for children with disabilities. The content in the Law is specified by the Decree No 24/1999/ND-CP. To December, 2001, The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) issued a Decision for the approval of Education Strategy for 2001-2010 with the target of providing education for 70% of children with disabilities in 2010. In 2008, MOET enforced a strategy for inclusive education for children with disabilities with the following targets:

- Providing education for children with serious disabilities before inclusive education
- Capacity building in education for children with disabilities
- Providing training courses of inclusiveness to teachers and consultancy to parents
- Providing early intervention services for children under 6 years old.

3. ***The Law on child Protection, Care and Education in 2004:***

The Law was enforced by The National Assembly of The Socialist republic of Vietnam in June, 2004. It states child rights, the role of the Government, society and families in child protection, care and education in general. The Law also dedicates a chapter to the issue of protecting, caring and educating disadvantaged children including those with disabilities.

4. ***Decree of The State in 1999 on orthopedics and rehabilitation for people with disabilities No*** **55/1999/ND-CP** stipulated the functions of Health sector and agencies at all levels on orthopaedics and rehabilitation for people with disabilities. It also requires all hospitals at provincial level to build orthorpaedics and rehabilitation wards and assign staff supervising community– based orthopaedics and rehabilitation activities in health center at district level.

5. ***Law on employment and vocational training for people with disabilities:*** Terms No 13, 125 in The Labor Law confirmed that the State ensures the right of people with disabilities to work and encourages enterprises to employ people with disabilities. In addition, it is confirmed that all people with disabilities having the ability to work have the same employment opportunity.

6. ***Direction of The Government in January 2006 on*** **"**Promotion for implementation of policies to support disabled person in the current Socio-Economic development situation", Direction No 01/2006/CT-TTg which was issued

on January 9, 2006 assigned functions to sectors of Health, Education, Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Cultural- Sport and Tourism, Construction, Transportation and Communication to implement policies and promote services to support disabled people.

7. Decision of The Government on October 2006 on "National Action Plan to support people with disabilities in the period of 2006- 2010" with 10 specific targets which contains 1 target on supporting health caring, education and telecommunication for disabled children. Furthermore, Ministries and agencies are requested to implement specific activities for reducing poverty, supporting finance and promoting friendly services for disabled people.

Currently, Vietnamese Ministries and Sectors are on the way to improve the Code on people with disabilities for submitting the National Assembly.

8. National programme of Action for children 2001-2010 with the aim related to disabled children.

III. SUMMARIZING OFFICIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

1- State – budget programs:

- Protecting and caring disabled child programs at Social Protection Centers under the management of MOLISA;
- Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Programs under the management of Health sector and Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Centers of MOLISA;
- Training courses, inclusive education and special education for disabled children under Ministry of Education and Training (MOET).

2- ODA- based programs:

- Programs and projects on caring, education, orthopaedics and rehabilitation for children with disabilities from the ODA sources (UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, JICA, JIBIC, USAID, FORD FOUNDATION...)
- Programs and projects on caring, education, orthopaedics and rehabilitation for children with disabilities from the loan of WB, ADB, JIBIC...

IV. SUMMARIZING SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN FROM NGOs:

There are 3 main groups:

- The cooperation between INGOs and Education and Training Sector in the inclusive education development;
- The cooperation between INGOs and Health sector in the field of Community – based orthopaedics and rehabilitation;
- The cooperation between INGOs and MOLISA in the field of employment and vocational training.

V. SUMMARIZING COMMUNITY – BASED ORTHOPAEDICS AND REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES:

- In recent years, with the technical support from MOH and financial support from domestic and foreign organizations and individuals, the MOLISA's Vietnamese Fund for child protection has cooperated with localities to establish this model. This model is a combination of community – based rehabilitation method and rehabilitation method for children in rehabilitation centers in hospitals where children often have functional rehabilitation exercise on mobility instructed by therapists. Lunch for children is free of charge and seriously disabled children are provided with some basic rehabilitation equipments. Until now, there have been effectively – run 32 inter – commune rehabilitation centers in 26 provinces /cities.
- At present, MOH are implementing 160 community – based rehabilitation centers at district level and 1650 commune – based rehabilitation centers at commune level.

VI. SUMMARIZING EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES:

1. Special education models for children with disabilities:

This model provides general education and vocational training for children. Now there are more than 100 special centers for about 6000 seriously disabled children. Unlike other general schools, this creates a good education opportunity for those children. Furthermore, this special model helps providing general education and vocational training with physical exercises, etc.

1. Inclusive education model for children with disabilities::

For children with light or medium disabilities, they can study with normal children in high schools in community. This model is currently implemented in 45 provinces/cities, attracting more than 60,000 disabled children.

2. Loaning project for children with disabilities of WB (about 220 millions USD) on 40 provinces /cities in the whole country.

VII. GOOD EXAMPLE ON SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES:

- **The cooperation between Health and Welfare sectors in suppoting orthopaedics and rehabilitation for children with disabilities**

In recent years, community – based orthopaedics and rehabilitation centers of MOH and MOLISA, orthopaedics and rehabilitation wards in hospitals, projects in this

field of Vietnamese Fund for Child Protection and social protection system of MOLISA have been supporting equipments and orthopaedics and rehabilitation treatment for children with all kinds of disabilities, which creates a chance for them to put themselves in tune with the society and to have equal rights. According to the Vietnamese Fund for Child Protection's report, from 2000 to 2008, through projects with the support of domestic and foreign donors, annually, 3000 visually – impaired children, 1000 children having cleft lip, thousands of children with difficulty in mobility and recently, children having innate heart defect are given operations. The report of MOLISA showed that annually on the average, 50,000 disabled childen are provided with rehabilitation equipment, more than 9,000 chidren are given operation and more than 35,000 children enjoy rehabilitation treatment.

- **Early diagnosis and intervention program (No data)**
- **Community support activities:**

**** Financial support for children with disabilities:***

- Free school fee: : 15%
- Heath insurance : 18%
- Monthly allowance : 43%

(including allowance for children whose parents are victims of war)

**** Supporting equipment for children with disabilities:***

Apart from financial support,chidren are given equipments such as crutch, rim, hearing aid instrument, glasses, wheel, false limbs

**** Supporting vocational training and job creation for children with disabilities:***

**** Supporting to put themself in tune with society***

VIII. SITUATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO IMPLEMENT HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES:

Currently, in the field of implementing health and Welfare for disabled children, besides the domestic source, Vietnam has been trying to strengthen the international cooperation with partners, along with the main ones: NGOs such as ICRC, Holt International, HOH, Maryknoll, Kinder Hilfe Hyuoy Vietnam, CNCF, VNAH, WCDO, CRS, PSBI-V, Save the Children. In addition, some Embassies to Vietnam and foreign

organizations and individuals having close relationship with Vietnam also want to give a better life for children with disabilities. The model of their activities could be through:

- Community support:

Allowance for families with disabled children, supporting vocational training for children; granting wheels or granting scholarship for disabled children with good study results; cooperating with localities to consult on health and the way to avoid HIV transmission;

- Providing Social Protection Centers with equipments to aid treatment for disabled children, providing physicians;

- Providing financial assistance for disabled children to have orthopaedics and rehabilitation treatment, to have smile, limbs and heart operation. Regarding to providing heart operation to children, OGCDC is one of noticeable donors in this field in Central Viet Nam. The work of OGCDC is to make heart surgery possible for the estimated number of 1,000 children with potentially fatal heart defects unable to afford the fee. To continue to provide more to the many families in need, OGCDC are continuously seeking further financial support. Besides, many children have received successful heart surgery with the assistance of other donors, namely: East Meets West (USA), Spiral Foundation, Central Vietnam Surgical Intervention Project for children with disabilities and Congenital Heart Defects (USA), Tuoi Xanh, Association d'aide a L'Enfance Demunie au Vietnam (Swiss), Eyes of Compassion (Canada), Sunny Korea, Vietnam Hope (Singapore), NPO.V –Heart Foundation (Japan) and numerous individual donors. Within disabled children, children affected by orange agent are also a big concern to Vietnamese Government and foreign donors. In general, the majority of these children are in difficult condition and it is more difficult for them to be rehabilitated in comparison with other kinds of disabilities. Therefore, at present, in Vietnam, there have been lot of projects concerning this beneficiary which have a common target is to provide health service and orthorpaedics and rehabilitation for disabled people, especially for

children who are victims of orange agent/ dioxin. And the project “Aiding disabled people and victims of orange agent /dioxin in 2009-2010” in Binh Dinh province funded by Ford Foundation through Vietnamese Association for the Handicapped (VNAH) is one example with the coverage of 350 beneficiaries including 200 children.