

SIIR/Vietnam Summary - January 2010 Report

During January, the first meeting with Project Preparation Team (PPT) was held to brief on the project progress and discuss about project framework, project work-plans and PPT working rules. The PPT was officially formed in the second half of December by the MoLISA International Cooperation Department and consisted of the following:

- ICD (designated as the lead/focal point)
- Department of the Labor Inspectorate (LI)
- Department of Labor and Wages (LWD)
- Department of Legal Affairs (LA)

The three other departments are those that the SIIR project is slated to work with in Components II and III. There was no time before the end of the year holidays for the SIIR team to meet with the PPT as a whole; however there were individual meetings with PPT members to development proposed activity plans.

After this official meeting, the SIIR project worked on the project proposal framework and sent the first draft to different PPT departments including ICD, Labor & Wages Department, Legal Department, and Labor Inspectorate for comments. SIIR continued to follow up with the ICD, responding to its comments and the draft proposal framework and sent back further revisions. The PPT members tended to comment only on their sections and not on the document as a whole.

In addition to meeting with PPT partners, the SIIR team continued to have planning meetings with some other project partners including the VCCI and the legal division of the VGCL. Two meetings were held with Trade Union University to discuss possible technical assistance areas. Key areas of technical assistance areas were identified including developing IR curriculum, translation of reference materials and capacity building for education IR lecturers.

An IT specialist from the DAI Home Office travelled to Vietnam from 4th to 10th January, to oversee the setting up of the SIIR office IT system and network as well as train the local IT consultant. The IT equipment which had been held up on customs for a number of weeks finally arrived at the end of December and the RCO's granting permission for the IT specialist (who was not the one in the original proposal) travel enabled him to come out as soon as possible after the beginning of the new year.

The COP continued to work on the project design needs assessment after receiving the external consultant's initial report. The external consultant had come out in December and sent a report later in January. The needs assessment is being developed in line with the overall project design and the project documents required by MOLISA.