

## **USAID/IR PROMOTION PROJECT – JANUARY 2011 REPORT**

In January, Jan Sunoo, an FMCS specialist came out to Vietnam to conduct his third consultancy for the project. During this trip, the consultant worked primarily with VCCI on development of a labor arbitration model and with MoLISA/LWD on how to strengthen the national industrial relations committee and possible recommendations on IR policies. Using comparative examples from the US and Asian countries, the consultant gave a presentation on various international labor arbitration models for VCCI and another on national tripartite bodies. In addition, the FMCS specialist worked with the national labor dispute resolution consultant to explore ideas and questions for a research study on current labor arbitration in Vietnam. After the trip, the international consultant will be a resource person giving comments on draft study reports and sharing reference materials.

The Steering Committee meeting was held on the last week of January. Prior to this meeting, a project performance report (in Vietnamese) was finalized and sent to the Project Owner, Project Steering Committee and Project Management Unit. In the meeting, the Project Director briefed on the project's Year One's activities. Each project counterpart who was present at the meeting in turn presented about their related project activities, their feedback as well as recommendation on the progress, coordination and implementation plans with a view to accomplishing all slated project activities, and more importantly, project objectives given the compressed timeframe.

In addition, the project office also followed up with relevant partners on other project work such as industrial relations education. By the end of January, there was a meeting between the project and representatives from Trade Union University and ULSA to discuss about detailed action plans for creating the revised industrial relations textbook. Two parties agreed that the focal point for this activity is ULSA and ongoing discussions among three universities and international consultants will be held in the forms of conference calls, meetings and exchanging reference materials. A meeting between universities and the project is scheduled in the third week of February to discuss the detailed framework of the textbook and allocation of responsibilities to each stakeholder.

Follow up activities include an international consultancy scheduled for March with resource persons from U.S Labor Education Association. In addition, other international resource persons were lined up including a team from the USDOL to work with the labor inspectorate and an international ADR expert to come in April to conduct trainings.

During the month, various meetings between the heads of MOLISA/Legal Department and VGCL Policy-Legal Affairs Department, and the Project Director were held respectively. The focus of these meetings was to discuss about the assessment report findings on current labor law education and ADR trainings (with Legal Department), and a handbook for legal advisory services as well as pilot models of collective bargaining (with VGCL).

### **Upcoming activities in February**

The office will be closed for the first week of February for Tet holidays (National Lunar New Year).

Preparatory work for two upcoming trips of (i) international IR education specialists and (ii) USDOL's inspection specialists in March will be finalized in February and early March.