

SIIR/Vietnam Summary - March 2010 Report

[In the month of February, the International Cooperation Department had suggested that in order to speed up the official project approval process, the SIIR project should use the services of a local consulting firm familiar with what is required by both MoLISA and MPI to finalize the project framework document. The rationale would be that this would expedite the entire approval process, avoiding delays caused by more requests for more information, different formatting, etc. The ICD recommended the Greenfield Consulting Company as a firm that had experience in this area.]

In the beginning of March, after the Tet holidays, SIIR had a meeting with the Greenfield Consulting Company to discuss about the option of having a national consultant assist in finalizing the project proposal framework to be submitted to MoLISA and MPI. Terms of reference were outlined and agreed upon. After the agreement was finalized, Greenfield met with different units in MoLISA to collect opinions and ensure they were reflected in the project proposal framework. The SIIR team received comments back and forth on the project proposal framework that were incorporated in the document. These have been incorporated into the framework document and now the consultant is shepherding the document through MoLISA.

The SIIR team began drafting a narrative workplan for the first year based to be submitted to the USAID Mission. The narrative would complement the draft activity framework matrix and M&E plan that has been completed. The narrative workplan document, modeled after another DAI project, would also contain background and project development information as well as meet the stipulations in the project taskorder. By the end of the month the workplan was mostly finished – however there have been ongoing changes in some of the activities based on feedback from primary stakeholders, which has delayed finalization.

SIIR team had a meeting Labor Wage Department to address some of the new activity areas that they had suggested. These areas include developing IR indicators (may be inserted in ILO project with support from SIIR), dispute resolution/prevention workshop, preparing for an in-depth survey to be implemented in July and IR education activities. A short meeting with Legal Department was also held to go over proposed activities implemented by Legal Department including the new survey on capacity for labor laws implementation. Two SIIR technical staff also worked with VGCL staff to define in detail what type of support they really needed for their legal services and on collective bargaining (the two areas for which the VGCL had originally requested assistance but had not yet provided details). The SIIR staff also met with VCCI to get their final input as well.

In addition to getting different activity requests from partners, the SIIR team has been monitoring the drafting of the both the Labor Code and Trade Union Law. While the SIIR was not involved in the development of either law, their enactment or postponement would affect what planned activities could be take place. The project team has tried to build flexibility into the workplan to take into account this possibility (which is looking more like an eventuality)/

SIIR had meetings with VNCCI and STAR project staff to discuss in detail some new cooperation activities. The idea is that joint planned activities could begin while the SIIR project awaited official approval. SIIR hopes to be able to discuss these planned activities with USAID in April.