

## SIIR/Vietnam April Summary

During April, the SIIR project focused on the two following areas: (1) working with relevant MoLISA agencies to facilitate the official approval of SIIR project, and (2) preparing for Year I activities implementation in both main project activity components.

During the approval process, the SIIR team attended the final meeting of the Project Preparation Team (PPT - consisting of the designated MoLISA department for the project) in which the detailed proposal framework was presented and the PPT members discussed all remaining issues. Some key areas such as description of project activities, management structure, the project owner (Labor Inspectorate) etc were all addressed. After the meeting, the project dossier was finalized and submitted to MoLISA leaders and MPI for review.

Also in April, the SIIR technical team continued to work with working levels of MoLISA implementing agencies (Legal Department, Labor Wages Department, and Labor Inspectorate) to discuss in detail the implementation of a number of project activities. The two sides have been developing terms of reference for external consultants to be used in proposed activities and making changes to relevant activities. To this end, the SIIR team began to contact various relevant US based organizations and institutions (e.g. universities) as well as individuals which had expertise in the identified activity areas to see gauge their interest, availability and willingness to undertake short term assignments.

Following February and March, SIIR had meetings with VNCI to have elaborate discussion on the collaborated FDI enterprises in-depth survey. The two project staff has been in the stage of designing and brainstorming all labor related questions incorporated in the survey. The questionnaire is slated to be finished by mid May for distributing out. With STAR project, as it is in the course of phasing out, some potential cooperation activities that had been identified for possible joint SIIR have to be reconsidered. Once a timeline for approval is established, the SIIR will submit a plan to ICD of MoLISA for various activities that could be implemented prior to official approval.

The SIIR project met with the USAID Mission COTR and briefed him on the status of project preparation and the approval process and other relevant issues.

The SIIR project finalized draft arrangements to have the regional DAI TAMIS specialist come in May or June to customize the TAMIS database for the SIIR project.

At the end of April, the SIIR office was closed for four days for the celebration of the National Reunification Day and May Day.