

SIIR July 2010 Report

In July the SIIR project continued to begin implementing activities, though they had to be categorized as “preparation work” given that the project was not yet approved and were overseen by the International Cooperation Department of MoLISA. The SIIR project received a big push with the notification of official approval. A letter by the Government Office was received in the second half of the month which officially listed the SIIR project into U.S grant portfolio and detailed MOLISA responsibilities for approval of the project. Copies were sent to MOLISA and concerned ministries. However the project document still needed to be finalized.

Beginning activities centered around an assessment of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Systems within Labor Relations in Vietnam. An US-based ADR specialist was contracted to come out to Vietnam for technical assistance for several days at the end of the first week in July. The objective of the trip was to study the current dispute resolution systems and practices, including functions of existing provincial conciliation councils and arbitration councils. Interviews with concerned stakeholders such as VCCI, Provincial Labor Confederation (Ho Chi Minh City and Binh Duong), various FDI enterprises and private monitoring firms were conducted. Based on these interviews, a report is being developed to provide recommendations for MoLISA and other stakeholders on making dispute resolution more effective. After the rapid assessment survey on ADR, the second phase will provide technical assistance and focused training to tripartite stakeholders, which is tentatively set for October 2010.

Two labor Inspection specialists team from International Labor Affairs Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor came out to Vietnam by the end of July to undertake the analysis of labor inspectorate system and current data collection/information system will serve as the basis for an assessment report and recommendations of policies and best practices. Various meetings with MOLISA Departments such as Legal, OSH, Labor and Wage, Gender Equality, Employment, and Inspector Training School were set up to get their buy-in and to share information on labor inspection systems in Vietnam and U.S. After that, three roundtable talks on U.S labor inspection system were organized by MOLISA Inspectorate in Hanoi, Danang and Ho Chi Minh City with participation from tripartite stakeholders such as MOLISA departments, VCCI, provincial labor confederation, enterprises, etc. During these three roundtable talks, the two international consultants collected valuable information on the advantages and shortcomings of current inspectorate system and shared and discussed ideas with Vietnamese counterparts. The team will return in October to conduct capacity building activities and to participate in an ASEAN workshop on labor inspection.

The SIIR project, along with the STAR project, made arrangements for a team from the AFL-CIO to come to Vietnam to strengthen bi-lateral ties with the VGCL. The SIIR team organized the meeting schedule with the VGCL and made logistical arrangements and made program available for translation.

Towards the end of July, another technical and logistics preparation were made for FMCS consultant who is expected to arrive in Vietnam in early August. The primary partners the FMCS consultant are to work with are VCCI, one MOLISA department and one IR institution (University of Labor and Social Affairs) in the form of roundtable talks on sharing FMCS model.