

SIIR AUGUST REPORT

This month the signing ceremony of memorandum of understanding between USAID and MOLISA for the SIIR project was held on August 5th. This marked the the official start of the project. Following the signing ceremony, the third draft of the project document was sent to the project owner and concerned stakeholders for comments which will later be sent to the MOLISA Leaders for official approval.

A specialist from Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services (FMCS), Jan Sunoo conducted three roundtable talks on mediation conciliation and how an FMCS model would in work in Vietnam with three counterparts: Vietnam Chamber of Commerce, MOLISA Inspectorate, and University of Labor and Social Affairs. In each presentation there was different focus on the role of the government, of employers and of IR Education respectively. The USAID COTR joined one of the three workshops.

Two international consultants from UCLA Labor Center, Kent Wong, industrial relations (IR) education consultant and Victor Narro, trade union legal advisory services consultant were contracted to come out to Vietnam in the middle of the month.

The IR education specialist, Kent Wong, mostly worked with three IR universities to assess the needs for technical assistance for each university. A workshop on “needs assessment of IR education and the possibility of IR Educator Network” hosted by Ton Duc Thang University, was organized in Ho Chi Minh City with the participation of lecturers from ULSA and TUU and representatives from enterprises. After the workshop, each IR institution will send their detailed proposals to the international consultant generate a set of and recommendations for each university. This will also be the basis of a follow up trip that focuses on capacity building, which is slate for December. In addition, Kent Wong will try to bring other labor educator initiatives and networks in the US to work with these universities and expand university to university linkages.

The trade union LAS consultant, Victor Narro, and SIIR project staff, in cooperation with VGCL, went on assessment trips to different labor confederations in the North (Haiphong), Central (Danang) and South (Binh Duong, HCMC and Dong Nai) of Vietnam to elevate current legal advisory centers and offices. Based on the findings from this trip, the consultant will write up an assessment report in which recommendations are incorporated. He will also draw up a training curriculum which he is slated to implement in November.

During the month, the Project Chief of Party gave a presentation for the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry on “the roles of employer organizations in promoting sound industrial relations in Vietnam” in VCCI’s workshop in Dalat.

First drafts of two reports on ADR and labor inspection system in previous trips are developed and sent to SIIR technical team for comments. Discussions on the finalization of these reports are on-going, and the report is on the fifth draft.

An upcoming STTA trip in September includes that of Katie Quan, a collective bargaining and labor laws education specialist from UC Berkeley Labor Center who will travel to Vietnam from 18 September to 2 October and work primarily with different stakeholders such an MOLISA Legal Department (on labor laws education) and VGCL, VCCI and MOLISA Labor and Wage Department (on collective bargaining).

September upcoming activities include:

- Scott Jacobs, International Senior Advisor on Regulatory Reform, of USAID/VNCI project is planned to give a presentation on “international experiences in developing modern management system for inspection activity” in MOLISA on the second week of September.
- Katie Quan, collective bargaining and labor laws education specialist from UC Berkeley Labor Center who will travel to Vietnam from 18 September to 2 October and work primarily with different stakeholders such as MOLISA Legal Department (on labor laws education), VGCL and MOLISA Labor and Wage Department (on collective bargaining) and other concerned partners in Hanoi and HCMC. The tentative schedule is as follows:

<i>Sun, 19 Sept:</i>	Arrival in Hanoi
<i>Mon, 20 Sept :</i>	Meeting with SIIR and VGCL
<i>Tue, 21 Sept:</i>	Round-table talk with VCCI on promoting collective bargaining in the view of the employers in the morning and briefing with MOLISA Labor and Wage Department in the afternoon
<i>Wed, 22 Sep:</i>	Meeting with Legal Department and Center for Industrial Relations Development on labor law education and collective bargaining
<i>Thurs, 23 Sept:</i>	Tripartite Workshop on Collective Bargaining (hosted by LWD)
<i>Fri, 24 Sept:</i>	Briefing with Department of Propaganda, VGCL and MOLISA Inspectorate, SIIR Project Owner
<i>Mon, 27 Sept:</i>	Workshop on developing a pilot model of CBA in Hanoi (hosted by VGCL); Leaving for HCMC
<i>Tue, 28 Sept:</i>	Regional Workshop on Labor Laws Education in HCMC (hosted by Legal Department)
<i>Wed, 29 Sept:</i>	Workshop on developing a pilot model of CBA in HCMC (hosted by VGCL); Back to Hanoi
<i>Thurs, 30 Sept</i>	Regional Workshop on Labor Laws Education in Hanoi (hosted by Legal Department, MOLISA)
<i>Fri, 1 Oct:</i>	Meeting with MOLISA law education council; Talk on collective bargaining within the context of industrial relations education (hosted by University of Labor and Social Affairs)
<i>Sat, 2 Oct:</i>	Leaving Hanoi