

USAID/IR Project - September Report

The first activity in September was a roundtable meeting in which Scott Jacobs, an International Senior Advisor on Regulatory Reform of the USAID/VNCI project, presented to MoLISA Labor Inspectorate officials the work he was doing on the draft Inspection Law [the consultant, Scott Jacobs, had been doing a series of presentations on inspections for various ministries under the VNCI project but MoLISA was not included – thus the USAID IR project was able to provide the format for him to engage MoLISA] . During the working session, the consultant shared international experience in developing modern management systems for inspection and the types of strategic planning that could be developed and incorporated into current practices. The consultant was not roundtable meeting was also a platform to help the consultant to understand the labor inspection system (including constraints) in Vietnam within the context of Vietnam's multiple inspection systems. Through the presentation, the Labor Inspectorate was able to engage the consultant on other countries' inspection systems and open up possibilities of further technical cooperation between the MOLISA Inspectorate and USAID IR Project and VNCI.

Throughout September, preparations were made for the STTA trip of Katie Quan, a collective bargaining and labor law education specialist from UC Berkeley Labor Center. A detailed schedule for two weeks, from 19 September to 2 October was sent to the project owner, MOLISA Inspectorate for approval and who then sent out the schedule to relevant stakeholders who primarily worked with the consultant during this trip. In the labor laws education area, the consultant worked with the MOLISA Legal Department. Two regional workshops on labor laws education were organized in the north (Hanoi) and in the south (HCMC). The workshops which were hosted by a MOLISA Vice Minister focused on sharing international practices on labor laws education as presented by Katie Quan and on presentations by DoLISAs in the North and the South on the implementation of Project 31 (on labor laws education and dissemination).

Another part of the consultant's work on collective bargaining – specifically on multi-employer agreements. Four workshops were organized by the University of Labor and Social Affairs, Vietnam General Confederation of Labor (VGCL), Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and MOLISA Labor and Wages Dept. concentrating on new approaches to collective bargaining with different scale of audience. In the workshops, new concepts (centralized bargaining, decentralized bargaining, pattern bargaining, sectoral agreements etc) were introduced with discussions centering finding applicable models of multi-employer collective bargaining agreement for Vietnam. The workshops include representatives of academia, employers representatives/FDI enterprises, unions, and the government. Along with separate meetings with relevant stakeholders, the workshops on both labor laws education and collective bargaining were forums of information sharing, including internal assessments that the consultant could use to develop follow on recommendations after the trip.

In September, planning also began for further work, including STTAs for labor inspection (including participation in an ASEAN Labor Inspection workshop) in October and trade union legal aid capacity building in November. A follow on STTA for ADR work planned for late October was postponed to January to allow for enough planning.

October upcoming activities include:

- Jeffrey Wheeler and Everett Murtagh, two labor inspection specialists from U.S Department of Labor, are come out for the second trip from 10/10 to 23/10 to conduct training on strategic planning and curriculum development for MOLISA Inspectorate on the basis of the assessment in the first trip and follow- up recommendations and given that a report by the national consultant was completed by the end of September.

Tentative schedule

- Sat, 9 October:* Depart for Hanoi
- Sun, 10 October:* Arrival at Moevenpick Hotel
- Mon, 11 October:* Briefing Meeting with SIIR
Meeting with VCCI
- Tue, 12 October* :Meeting with VGCL
Leaving for Ha Long by MOLISA bus
- Wed, 13 October:* ASEAN Forum on Labor Inspection
- Thurs, 14 October:* ASEAN Forum on Labor Inspection
- Fri, 15 October:* Meeting with US Embassy
- Mon, 18 October:* Meeting with USAID
Meeting with MOLISA Inspectorate
- Tue, 19 October* : Meeting with Labor Inspection Handbook Committee
Meeting with Labor Inspection MIS Committee
- Wed, 20 October:* Meeting with Labor Inspection TOT Committee
Leaving for Cantho city
- Thurs, 21 October:* “Strategic Planning Workshop on Labor Inspection Training Development Management” in Cantho City
- Fri, 22 October:* “Strategic Planning Workshop on Labor Inspection Training Development Management” in Cantho City
- Sat, 23 October:* Back to Hanoi