

USAID/IR PROMOTION PROJECT - NOVEMBER REPORT

During the first week of November, the MOLISA inspectorate as project owner drafted a set of draft regulations on operational procedures for cooperation and collaboration between the Project Steering Committee, the Project Management Unit (PMU), the Project Owner, the Project Office and participating partners and sent it to relevant parties for comments. In the second week of the month, the first project management unit meeting was organized for representatives from key tripartite stakeholders who are designated to be the members of the PMU. The PMU serves as the liaison office for the implementation of project activities. In the meeting, the COP gave an overview and progress report and the draft regulation and workplans by each partner were discussed. This was a preparatory meeting for the official introduction of the Project Steering Committee who will have the final approval on the project's overall workplan. The meeting for the Steering Committee is scheduled in December 2010.

In the middle of November 2010, Victor Narro, a trade union legal advisory services consultant from UCLA Labor Center, traveled out to Vietnam for one week. This was his second trip. After an August assessment trip to targeted legal advisory centers and offices in the North, the Central and the South, the consultant developed a report including a number of recommendations for strengthening the capacity of the current trade union legal advisory services including: the introduction of comparative practices in case management systems, internal capacity evaluation systems, developing a clearinghouse of forms and training curricula and creating templates for handbooks and other materials. The report was sent to Vietnam General Labor Confederation and followed up in subsequent meetings by project staff. During this second trip, a training workshop on trade union legal advisory service development management was organized by VGCL with the participation of representatives of key provincial legal advisory centers and offices. This was the opportunity for the participants to learn and share their practices and experiences from their fellow trade union legal aid services in the country as well as learn international practices from the consultant. Prior to the training workshop, a series of preparatory meetings between the consultant and a working group of national experts comprised from VGCL's Policy and Legal Department and selected provincial LAS offices were organized to prepare additional training materials for the workshop.

From the beginning of the month, project staff have been working with partners to adjust and finalize their second year plans. However there are delays as partners have wanted to wait until the creation of the steering committee. In the meantime carryover activities have continued. In November project staff continued the process of annual reporting to USAID including the FY 2010 Performance Plan and Review, DQAs, finalization of the project indicators and the M&E plan. The project staff as continued to work closely with partners and consultants (via correspondence) in following up the initial work in the areas of alternative dispute resolution, collective bargaining, labor law education and labor inspection, and industrial relations education.

Upcoming activities in December

No international consultant will come out to Vietnam during this month. Follow up activities from previous trips will be undertaken. Some work items include: preparation for Steering Committee meeting, preparation for second year plan to USAID, development of M&E indicators, workplans with specific partners, the schedule of FMCS consultant in January, etc.