

USAID/IRPP June 2011 monthly report

In the first part of June, the project staff focused on preparing for an intensive program in the rest of the month as there would be three groups of consultants coming to work with us to provide technical assistance for the project's stakeholders. The preparation works included material translation, development of training curricula and finalizing consultants' working schedules and other documents.

In the second week of June, Dean Professor Jeffrey Brand and Professor John Adler from School of Law, University of San Francisco, conducted a two-day training for participants from various DoLISAs (selected by MoLISA/LWD) to improve their skills in labor dispute resolution, primarily focusing on labor negotiation and mediation skills. By using role plays and the case method in simulation exercises, the trainers managed to get all participants involved and illustrate that negotiation and mediation are effective tools to resolve many types of conflicts. Dean Brand and Prof. Adler also met VTU's faculty and students involving with running the university's legal labor law clinic and planned out further cooperation between VTU and the USF School of Law.

In the third week of June, Jan Sunoo, an FMCS specialist came out to Vietnam to conduct his fourth consultancy for the project. During this trip, the consultant worked with VCCI on CBA training and with MoLISA/LWD to improve ADR skills taskforce members resolving strikes in IPZs. The CBA training for VCCI divided the participants into small groups to discuss the employers' concerns about CBA and the importance of CBA to employers, as well as step by step guiding the participants on how to successfully negotiate and conclude a CBA. In the training workshop on advanced skills at labor dispute resolution, the specialist and the participants shared observations and practices of mediating labor disputes, as well as developed "Standard Operating Procedures" (SOP) for intervening in disputes and lessening potential disputes. In addition, the consultant went to Binh Duong to provide technical assistance for the Binh Duong Taskforce on preparation for the 2nd draft of the Textile CBA. Jan Sunoo was accompanied in his trip to Binh Duong by Prof. Mark Anner from the Pennsylvania State University, who came to observe in order to prepare for his coming coordination with the project on CBA training in the near term.

In June, the project staff worked with Professor Lance Compa from Cornell University, another project consultant, to implement a plenty of activities. Working with project staff Prof. Compa conducted meetings with MoLISA/LWD on NIRC, PIRC and the country's IR policy, introducing LWD with different models of general principles of sound industrial relations policy in developing countries from which to draw. In addition, the consultant also gave a presentation at ULSA about new types of CBAs and on IR textbook development. This was followed by a full-day training session at VTU for faculty from several universities' on curricula building, with focus on developing and using labor law cases. In addition a series of meetings was held between the project consultant and different stakeholders, including meeting with VCCI, ILO, STAR, US Government Delegation on TPP Negotiation, FES, and APHEDA. In the last activity, the consultant attended and contributed his ideas and experience in the tripartite strategic planning workshop on IR Strategies with LWD.

Throughout June project staff also worked with main the project stakeholders (MoLISA, VCCI and VGCL) in other on-going activity areas:

- Legal Capacity survey – on-going translation and review (Legal Department)
- Labor Law Education – planning for upcoming activities (Legal Department)
- Legal Aid Services – translating and distributing his report and planning with the consultant – Victor Narro - on his trip in July(VGCL)
- Industrial Relations Policy – planning activities and developing recommendations for NIRC and PIRC models (LWD)
- IR in-depth IPZ Survey – designing questionnaire and methodology (LWD)
- CBA development – further negotiations for the pilot CBA
- DR/ADR – finalizing and translating training curricula, revising consultant reports, development of education materials, planning for next phases (LWD, Legal Department)
- IR education program – development of IR textbook and planning for next activities - including review of the draft (3 universities)
- Labor Inspection – follow up on three committees and planning for training and material development (Labor Inspectorate)

Upcoming activities in July

Jeff Wheeler, a US DOL Labor Inspection specialist, will travel to Vietnam for one and a half week from 13 July to 24 July to conduct trainings and meetings with both central and local project stakeholders on improving labor inspection capacity.

Follow up activities with the following counterparts will be carried out:

- VCCI: CBA training will be conducted for VCCI by Mark Anner
- VGCL: Continued work on pilot CBA (including further rounds of negotiations) and legal aid
- LWD: follow up planning on PIRC development
- Universities: The first review workshop on the IR textbook draft
- Labor Inspectorate: Formation of the committees and first meetings.