



USAID/IRPP December 2011 monthly report

In the first week of the month, the project staff supported the Legal Affairs Division of the VGCL in conducting the Training Workshop on Multi Employer pilot CBA from December 1-3, 2011 in Ho Chi Minh City. The objective of the training workshop was to facilitate discussions on evaluation of Binh Duong Textile-Garment CBA pilot model and introduction to international best practices on three-step CBA with a view to promoting implementation of the VGCL's Resolution No.1. Following that objective, the workshop was structured in two parts as follows: *Part 1* (on the first day) was focusing on introduction, exchange of opinions on evaluation of Binh Duong Textile-Garment CBA pilot model for 60 participants (union officials and managerial staff from selected enterprises); *Part 2* (on the following one and half day) was focusing on introduction to three-step multi-employer CBA process and skills-building in an industry in IPZs of a province for 20 participants (union leaders and officers from Federations of Labor and IPZs). The leader trainer for this workshop was Ms. Katie Quan.

After conducting the training workshop in Ho Chi Minh City, from December 5-9, 2011, the project staff had various meetings: *meeting with MOLISA's Labor Inspectorate* at LI office to update the project activities, follows-up work-plan until March 2012 as well as to submit the Project Assessment Report of Phase II and urge LI to proceed with on-going activities; *meeting with BEA/VCCI* to confirm that the IRPP funded VCCI hosted bipartite workshops on Legal Advisory Services would be held in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in January 2012 with technical support given by a US ADR specialist; *online meeting with US CBA and DR Specialists* to finalize their technical visits in Vietnam in early January 2012.

In the second week of the month, the COP presented a project summary, extension activities and Phase II work at USAID EG held on December 13 2011. On the same day, the Deputy COP also attended the Tripartite Workshop on Establishment of Pilot Provincial Industrial Relations Committee held by the LWD in Melia Hanoi Hotel and chaired by H.E Mr. Pham Minh Huan, Deputy Minister of MOLISA. In the workshop, the Draft National IR strategy was open for discussion and the Hanoi Pilot PIRC Proposal was showcased for follow up plan of actions and replication in other cities/provinces.

After attending the workshop in Hanoi, from December 14-17 2011, the Deputy COP joined LWD's Deputy DG and National Consultant to do the IPZs IR Baseline Survey in HCMC and Binh Duong. It was expected that, the survey team would complete the survey with strategic baseline information and IR Strategy Synthesis Report before the upcoming Tet (Lunar New Year 2012). Besides, the Deputy COP joined IR consultation meetings with Grassroots IR Taskforce members from the Binh Duong DOLISA, IPZs Management Boards, HCMC DOLISA, LOLISA (Binh Tan distr.) and HCMC IPZs Management Boards; meeting with representatives of Ton Duc Thang University to push for the completion of IR textbooks and supplemental materials for the partner universities.

In the third week of the month, the project staff continued to have various meetings with partners (VGCL's Legal Affairs Divisions, MOLISA's Center of Industrial Relations Development,



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VCCI/BEA) for IR technical advising and finalizing arrangements for the US CBA and DR Specialists' appointments and consultations in January 2012.

In addition to those meetings, the project staff held the VOLVIS IR Study Visit's Debriefing Meeting in the project office on December 23, 2011. Attending the meeting were key VOLVIS participants, the representatives from US Embassy representatives, USAID EG/Hanoi and full PO staff members. The attending VOLVIS participants showed great appreciation to the PO and the related US entities for facilitating the study tour into a great success for Vietnamese labor administrators, trade unionists and educators from Vietnam. They as well requested the PO for giving further technical support to liaise with the US labor education institutions for more in depth labor exchange in the time to come.

In the last week of the month, the Deputy COP attended the IRPP/SIIR/VCCI Workshop on Legal Advisory Services on December 28, 2011 in Ho Chi Minh City. Also on those days in HCMC, the Deputy COP met BEA/VCCI and VCCI HCMC to finalize work agenda of the upcoming visit of US CBA and DR Specialist in the first two weeks of January 2012.

Upcoming activities in January 2012

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

- Talk on "Best Practices in CBA" at three universities (VTU, ULSA, TDTU) with US CBA Specialist, Ms. Nancy Mills, from January 3-5, 2012.
- Training Workshop on Effective Communication and Negotiation for Labor Dispute Prevention and Resolution at Workplace held in VCCI office in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City from January 10-13, 2012 with the participation of Mr. Richard Fincher, a US Specialist.
- Talk on ADR at three universities (TDTU, VTU, ULSA) on January 14 and January 17 2012 with the participation of Mr. Richard Fincher, a US DR Specialist
- Meetings with BEA/VCCI for dispute resolution and VCCI/Cornell Bilateral Exchange Program discussion