

## **USAID/IRPP March 2012 Monthly Report**

In March 2012, the Project staff coordinated, conducted and participated in six workshops/consultative meetings under three project subcomponents: strengthening capacity for labor inspectorate, developing national strategic framework on industrial relations promotion; and building capacity for IR education institutions. Around 350 men and women from national and local tripartite stakeholders participated in these activities (including from ASEAN/IALI member countries).

Apart from coordinating and providing direct technical assistance, the Project staff have arranged the consultancies of Mr. Tac Tacelosky – a US-based IT Specialist, Ms. Van Nguyen, non-STTA Specialist on IR Education Partnership and Dr. Nguyen Huu Dung, a National Consultant, to share and present work with counterparts on (i) Improved Effectiveness of Labor Inspection System and OSH inspection; US Vietnam IR education partnership needs assessment; and (ii) Roadmap of Strategy for sound industrial relations; (iii), respectively.

In the first week, the COP and Project Staff met the leaders of Labor Inspectorate (the Project Owner and PMU head) and Labor and Wage Department to update the project progress and achievements highlights and planned out activities in April. The COP and Project staff also met ICD's new Director General to devise the plan for the Final Evaluation Workshop and aspects of the provisional agenda of US DOL Deputy Undersecretary, Ms. Sandra Polaski who would lead a mission to Vietnam for the upcoming US Vietnam Labor Dialogue. Project staff also met IR educators from the three partner universities to discuss the plan to review the draft IR textbook and discuss suggested supplemental materials and present findings from the US-Vietnam IR faculty exchange program assessments report.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> weeks of March, the Project staff coordinated with the Labor and Wage Department in preparation of the Tripartite National Workshop on IR Strategy Development that was held March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. At this important Workshop, the Project representatives presented a position paper assessing the IR developments and suggested a strategic framework for sound industrial relations development toward 2020 for Vietnam. In addition, the COP met with the high ranking representatives of MOLISA, VGCL and VCCI to discuss follow up on IR policy development.

The Project coordinated with Labor Inspectorate to provide technical assistance to host Planning Workshop on the draft Strategy for Improved Effectiveness of Labor Inspection System and attended series of national and international advocacy activities at the outset of the 14<sup>th</sup> National Occupations Safety and Health Week that took place in Bien Hoa City in Dong Nai. There were activities such as the ISSA Mining/ASEAN/IALI Workshop on Labor Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health, the MOLISA/FES Green Job Workshop and the National OSH Week's Official Launch.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> week, the Project Office focused on preparing and organizing the Project's Final Evaluation Terminate Workshop held March 28<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from the local

counterparts and implementers were invited, such as: MOLISA's relevant units, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam General Confederation of Labor, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Vietnam Cooperative Alliance and IR educators from three universities and representatives of the USAID Mission and US embassy in Vietnam.

The Project Office arranged technical support from US IT specialist to be a resource person in four Training/Technology Transfer Workshops for 45 participants, including the LI/MIS Committee members. The committee also supervised and supported the Online Self Assessment Software (OSAS) development which was tailored and adapted to the LI's administrative practice. The OSAS 1.0 was pre-tested successfully and now being ready for an official launch on April 24 2012 in Hanoi.

To support the local business community, the Project Office played a liaison role the VCCI and the US Cornell University draft project on alternative dispute resolution and labor arbitration for Vietnamese employers. To date, the VCCI and VGCL conducted a Visioning Dialogue and reached an agreement for follow up with the VCCI/Cornell Project Proposal which would be submitted to potential funding sources as Cornell explored other financial support.

The Project Office coordinated with the VGCL and other partners to complete LAC/LAOs handbooks and Labor Inspection Visit manuals, Technical Assistance Compilations, IR textbook supplemental materials, and IR Glossary.

Lastly, as the Project is closing down, the Project staff is finalizing technical assistance compilation, quarterly project report, final project reviews and agenda for closedown trip of Sarah Lehman in April 2012.

The project was granted a one-month no cost extension for April 2012. So in April, the Project Office will focus its resources in final activities as follows:

- IR Textbook Appraisal Roundtable \_ Round I, April 5 2012, in Ho Chi Minh city;
- IR Textbook Appraisal Roundtable \_ Round II, April 25 2012, in Ha Noi;
- The OSAS version 1.0 Launching Ceremony, April 24 2012 in Hanoi
- Completion of LACs/LAOs Handbook and publication;
- Completion of Labor Inspection Visit Manual;
- Backstopping to National Conference on Sustaining Sound Industrial Relations under PM's Directive No. 1129;
- Reception of Sandra Lehman's closedown trip;
- Finalization and submission of Project's Final Reviews;

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