

Reporting Period: January 1 – March 31, 2005

Name of PVO: Health Volunteers Overseas

Title of Project: Vietnam Rehabilitation Project

Date of this Report: April 26, 2005

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Support the activities of the Disability Forum

Legal status

The process of preparing additional documentation as requested by the Hanoi DOLISA continued this quarter. They appear to be particularly interested in certain provisions of Article 8 of Decree 88, including certification of the proposed association's head office, assets and operation plan.

The Mobilizing Committee has discussed different strategies for dealing with the bureaucratic hurdles, one argument being that DOLISA would prefer a "project" - type proposal. This appears to be partly in response to the simultaneous application by Bright Future in which they have declared prior funding commitments by the Danish group.

Contact was made this quarter with a local attorney who has expressed interest in assisting in the application process. An initial meeting was held in March to discuss the issues.

Management Training

With input from the participants in last quarter's training event, a planning meeting was held on February 17. The group decided that some of the training materials used were not appropriate for their environment and also suggested that there might be wider participation by provincial PWD leaders.

A comprehensive training plan will be formulated this quarter. One element will be training of trainers to provide for in-house sustainability of the process.

April 18

Preparations began this quarter for celebration of the National Day of People with Disabilities. The Events Working Group took full responsibility for making the arrangements. The theme decided upon was "PWDs and the Environment", the venue to be Hanoi's Botanical Garden. It was suggested that since the US

Ambassador has expressed interest in disabilities issues, he should be invited to speak at the event.

Support VIETCOT students in the 1-year Orthotics specialty course

The in-school phase of the orthotics course continued this quarter as planned. The clinical placement phase will follow in the third quarter of the year.

Strengthen the university linkages

Planning was underway for a follow-up workshop with the Dreyfus Foundation and Temple University to be conducted at Hue Medical College. This will build on last year's workshop, "Problem Solving for Better Health Nursing." Additional faculty members from Temple University will then work with the nursing faculty and students to address issues in specialties requested by the university – obstetric, pediatric, psychiatric, and surgical nursing.

Develop the professional capacities of nurses, rehabilitation doctors, and physical therapists

Physical therapists Roger Rich and Patrick Regan returned to the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City to conduct a course in Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation (PNF) for the BS/PT program. They conducted the course for new students and then did a follow-up course for previous students. Those students were given a course review, in the form of short topical presentations addressing specific patient problems.

Physical therapist Kim Dunleavy conducted a course in "Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction" for the students in the degree program. Such a course in mobilization had been requested by Vietnamese faculty, since the course has only been taught in continuing education formats, with the last course having been taught some ten years ago. The students do not receive a lot of training in manual skills, but they achieved basic skill levels in basic mobilization techniques for the spine and extremities. It is recommended that a follow-up course be conducted later this year.

In late February and early March, TAG member and physical therapist, Dr. Elizabeth Kay, conducted a training in Lifespan Development for the degree program. She felt that the three teachers who will team teach the course next year took on increased responsibility and will be capable of teaching the course next year.

Two physiatrists, Dr. Michael Priebe and Dr. Lisa-Ann Wuermser, spent a week working with the doctors at Handicapped International's Spinal Cord Center. Specific topics to be addressed were medical examinations for patients with spinal cord injury and pressure sores. However, as the doctors did rounds together, many other issues were addressed.

The two physiatrists and Dr. Elizabeth Kay, who is a colleague in the US, met with the head of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, as well as staff from Cho Ray Hospital to discuss the possibility of assisting with the residency training program in rehabilitation. Reactions were very positive, so this idea is being pursued.

Both physiatrists were asked to present at the Asian Spinal Cord Network conference which will take place in Vietnam in late November/early December of this year. In addition, the doctors were able to arrange, through their international contacts, for complimentary registration for one of the Spinal Unit's doctors to present his poster at the 6th World Congress on Brain Injury in Australia. Although he had a plane ticket and a place to stay, the sizeable registration fee would have prevented his attendance. He was very grateful that he will now be able to attend.

Quarterly Impact Summary:

The quarter was a busy one for workshops in Ho Chi Minh City, as part of the BS/Physical Therapy program. The process for legalizing the Disability Forum is proving particularly bureaucratic, but the organizing committee is slowly working its way through the various channels, learning of new obstacles as they go. With each setback, they attempt new routes to full association status!

Discussions were held with USAID this quarter about continuing the Quality Assurance Project which has been underway at the Danang Rehabilitation Center. HVO has been working on the project on a sub-contract basis with the University Research Co. LLC, under their USAID-funded contract. It was decided that the project would continue under HVO's grant agreement, as of April 1.

Data Collection:

PNF workshop: 36 students

Mobilization course: 50 students

Lifespan Development course: 36 students

Spinal Cord Unit: 8 doctors

ACRONYMS:

APCD:	Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability
ISPO:	International Society for Prosthetics & Orthotics
JICA:	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MCNV:	Medical Committee of Netherlands, Vietnam
MOH:	Ministry of Health
MOLISA:	Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
NCCD:	National Coordinating Committee for Disabilities
PWD:	People with Disabilities
TAG:	HVO's Technical Advisory Group
VIETCOT:	Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists
VINAREHA:	Vietnam Rehabilitation Association
VNA:	Vietnam Nurses' Association
VNAH:	Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped
VVAF:	Vietnam Veterans' of America Foundation