



REPORT ON
**WORKSHOP ON THE ROADMAP FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE VIETNAM AUTISM NETWORK**



29-30 August 2013 | Hanoi, Vietnam

Report on Workshop on the Roadmap for the Establishment of the Vietnam Autism Network

Organized by
Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam (MoLISA)
Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)



in Collaboration with
Vietnam Federation on Disability (VFD)
ASEAN Autism Network (AAN)
Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)



29-30 August 2013
Hanoi, Vietnam

Printed by
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SUMMARY REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The “Workshop on the Roadmap for the Establishment of the Vietnam Autism Network” was held from 29 to 30 August 2013 with the theme: Towards a Friendly Community to Persons with Autism. The Workshop was organized by MoLISA and APCD in cooperation with the Vietnam Federation on Disability (VFD), the ASEAN Autism Network (AAN) and the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

With over 80 participants, the highlight of workshop included the establishment of the Vietnam Autism Network and adoption of the Recommendations which called for the inclusion of Autism in the laws, policies and programs related to disability in Vietnam.

Participants

- Representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam (MoLISA), the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health in Vietnam
- Representatives of the Vietnam Federation on Disability (VFD)
- Parents’ representatives from Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Thanh Hoa and Vung Tau
- Representatives of the ASEAN Autism Network (AAN)
- Representatives of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)
- Representatives of United Nations agencies, local and international NGOs
- Representatives of concerned organizations
- Individuals



Group Photo of the Participants

Session 1: Opening

- H.E. Mr. Nguyen Trong Dam, Vice Minister, MoLISA, Mr. Akiie Ninomiya, Executive Director, APCD, Mr. Lam Tuong Vu, Chairman, Hanoi Autisms' Parents Children Club, and Ms. Dang Huynh Mai Chairwoman, VFD delivered opening speeches for the workshop.
- The opening speeches expressed their deep interest in development on autism and efforts to organize the workshop. It was expected that the workshop will achieve all the objectives, particularly with regards to the establishment of the VAN - the new member of AAN and the active involvement of children with autism into community.

Session 2: Understanding Autism and Regional Collaboration on Autism in ASEAN

- Dr. Samrerng Viracharang, Vice President, Association of Parents of Thai Persons with Autism, and Mr. Malai Hj Abdullah Othman, Chairperson, AAN, presented about "Understanding Autism and Regional Collaboration on Autism in ASEAN". They shared their views on autism as a different ability. That needs the care, understanding and support of family, community and society. In many ASEAN countries, the autism issue has received much interest. Persons with autism can integrate well into the community and have a bright future with early intervention and support.

Session 3: Social Work and care for the persons with autism

- Mr. Nguyen Van Hoi, Deputy Director, Social Protection Department gave a presentation on "Social Work and Care for Persons with Autism". The presentation briefed the current situation of persons with disabilities and autism in particular. The policies on autism have been improved but are still inadequate; the care service for persons with autism is still limited. Mr. Nguyen Van Hoi presented the four solutions and directions in the future for this issue.
- Ms. Vu Thi Kim Hoa, Head of Child Care Division, Department of Child Protection and Care, MoLISA, presented on "Supporting Services for Children with Mental Disorders, Especially for Children with Autism". The report presented detailed objectives, target groups, service packages and activities. This model will work effectively from grass-roots to the central level.
- Associate Professor Dr. Nguyen Thi Hoang Yen, Deputy Director of Vietnam Education Science Institute, shared the survey results on education for children with autism and related policies. In this survey, Associate Professor Dr. Nguyen Thi Hoang Yen pointed out restrictions on different aspects including early detection, intervention and inclusive education for children with autism. All of these aspects lack criteria, tool, standard program, technical cooperation, human resources and equipment, etc. Children with autism in Vietnam suffer from disadvantages and inadequate comprehensive care. In terms of policies, autism is still not officially recognized in any legal document. Children with autism are not covered in any current Laws.
- Dr. Thanh Ngoc Minh, Head of Mental Health Department, Central Children Hospital, Ministry of Health presented on the Health Care Policy System and Services. The presentation evaluated 8 years of the implementation of the Law on care and protection of children and included recommendations. In addition, the report also presented the standard procedure on diagnosis and intervention of autism in the Children Hospital.
- In this session, presentations of government representatives and scientists gave an overview on the current situation of autism and related policies in Vietnam. Although the issue of autism has drawn the attention of many people in recent years. Health care, education services and related policies have been improved step by step. There are still many obstacles to meet the needs of children with autism while the number of persons with autism in the society has increased.

Session 4: Situation of Persons with Autism and their Families in Vietnam

- Ms. Pham Thi Kim Tam, Representative, Ho Chi Minh Autism's Parents' Group shared the story about her son, who is affected by autism, and her view about autism in Vietnam. Her story showed difficulties of families as well as persons with autism facing obstacles including lack of health care, diagnosis, intervention, education, specialists, sharing, understanding and support from the community. Children with autism are facing dead-ends due to the inadequacy of trained services, care centers and proper policies.
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh, Director, Special Education Centre, College of Pedagogy Hanoi and Dr. Do Thuy Nga, Director, Centre for Hope presented their working experience in teaching children with autism. The combination of health care centers, education sectors and families are needed for the progress and development of children with autism. The establishment of the family network of persons with autism will be a great support for development on autism in Vietnam.
- Ms. Pham Thi Yen, Representative, Hanoi Autism's Parents Club, introduced the activity results of voluntary parents' groups in many provinces. The activities brought certain benefits to the parents of children with autism and the community. Her presentation gave some recommendations on awareness raising and social policies for persons with autism.

Session 5: Networking and Collaboration on Autism in Vietnam

- Ms. Dang Huynh Mai and Mr. Pham Dong Linh, Representatives, Ho Chi Minh Autism's Parents' Group presented about networking and collaboration on autism in Vietnam. The participants agreed on the establishment of the Vietnam Autism Network (VAN), under VFD and AAN. Autism should be recognized as a form of disability and should be included in legal documents so that persons with autism can also benefit from the Disability Law.

Session 6: Establishment of Vietnam Autism Network (VAN)

- Mr. Nguyen Van Hoi, Ms. Pham Thi Kim Tam and Ms. Hoang Ngoc Bich, Representative, AAN chaired this session.
- The participants discussed and agreed on the Constitution, Logo and Action Plan of VAN. Six Interim Executive Board Members were elected. Ms. Dang Huynh Mai became Honorary Chairperson with technical support from the Government of Vietnam, AAN and APCD.

Session 7: Statement of the Workshop

- The "Vietnam Autism Network Recommendations", including 6 items, focusing on concrete action with the theme "Action for Autism Now" was adopted by participants.

Session 8: Closing

- The newly elected Honorary Chairperson of VAN and representatives of the workshop organizers including MoLISA, VFD, AAN and APCD delivered the closing speeches showing their satisfaction, hope and determination to act for a better future of persons with autism.

Session 9: Internal Meeting of VAN and Stakeholders

- In this session, parents and the Interim Executive Board Members of VAN discussed with AAN and APCD about an Action Plan and tasks for each member. Two incoming activities are the "Stabilizing and developing activities of parent groups" and "Completing legal procedures to make VAN become a member of VFD."

Key outcomes of the workshop

- Overview of legal framework and the situation of persons with autism and their families in Vietnam.
- The Vietnam Autism Network (VAN) was established to raise the voice of persons with autism, their parents and family members.
- The Constitution, Logo and Action Plan of VAN were agreed by participants. Six Interim Executive Board Members were elected.
- The “Vietnam Autism Network Recommendations” was adopted by participants.



Discussion on the Options of Logo for the Vietnam Autism Network

CONSTITUTION OF THE VIET NAM AUTISM NETWORK

Chapter 1 NAMES, PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

Article 1. Names

1. Name in Vietnamese: Mạng lưới Gia đình người tự kỷ Việt Nam.
2. Name in English: Viet Nam Autism Network.
3. Abbreviation: VAN.

Article 2. Principles and Objectives

1. The Viet Nam Autism Network (hereafter referred to as VAN) is a social, non-profit organization, acting to support and advocate for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to exercise their legal rights and responsibilities.

2. Gathering and uniting strengths of organizations and individuals for the good of persons with ASD and their families; coordinating the activities of VAN individual and organization members, facilitating the adaptation of persons with ASD to the community environment, and improving the quality of their living.

3. VAN seeks to contribute to the development and implementation of the government and the Communist Party's policies towards persons with ASD; improve the social status of

persons with ASD; represent for the societies of persons with ASD and their families, and participate in international activities for the good of persons with ASD.

Article 3. Principles of organization and operation

1. Voluntary participation, self-management, financial autonomy, and legal responsibility for its activities.
2. Union, honesty, equal cooperation, democracy, consensus, and transparency.
3. Collective leadership, personal responsibility.
4. Coordinate, support and facilitate the activities of member associations.

Article 4. Scope of operation, legal status, and headquarters of VAN

1. VAN's activities are nation-wide, subject to the governance of the Ministry of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs and other ministries and organizations related to the scope and areas of VAN's operations.
2. VAN's headquarters resides in Ha Noi, and may have legal representative offices in provinces when necessary.

Chapter 2

FUNCTIONS AND MISSIONS

Article 5. Functions

1. VAN is a social organization connecting the associations of persons with ASD and their families, and activist groups for persons with ASD, supporting persons with ASD to live confidently and equally and fully benefit from the legal, social, education and health

care services in a manner that is safe and appropriate for persons with ASD.

2. Representing for persons with ASD, protecting their legal rights, facilitating their participation in learning, living and working activities.

Article 6. Missions

1. Protect the rights of persons with ASD and their families as specified in the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, and in the laws of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

2. Connect, train and develop the associations of families of persons with ASD in Viet Nam.

3. Coordinate the activities of member associations. Promote experiences sharing and the cooperation among member associations.

4. Improve the capacity of associations of persons with ASD and their families in Viet Nam.

5. Collect ideas and aspirations of persons with ASD and their families and send to the government, the Vietnamese Communist Party and other government agencies for the development of policies related to persons with ASD.

6. Participate in legal activities of international organizations related to ASD.

7. Call for and distribute funding to support persons with ASD.

8. Promote and facilitate research activities about ASD, and training of ASD-related specialists.

Chapter 3

MEMBERS OF VAN

Article 7. Members of VAN may include

1. Full member: Persons with ASD and organizations of families of persons with ASD in Viet Nam.
2. Associate member: Supporting individuals and organizations, providers of services for persons with ASD.
3. Honorary member: Charitable organizations and individuals that support persons with ASD, determined by VAN Executive Committee.

Article 8. Member registration

Members of VAN are individuals and organizations that are eligible as specified in Article 7 of this Constitution, whose applications are approved by VAN Executive Committee, and pay VAN annual membership fee.

Article 9. Termination of membership

Members who wish to withdraw from VAN should send a written notification to VAN Executive Committee for decision.

Article 10. Rejection of Application

VAN Executive Committee can reject an application without stating the reason(s).

Article 11. Members' Rights

1. Campaign and vote for positions in VAN Executive Committee, discuss and vote for amendments to VAN Constitution and activities, question issues related to VAN

2. Be protected by VAN when their legal rights are violated; be supported with and made accessible to services provided by VAN; be provided with information related to VAN activities.

3. Make suggestions, proposals and questions to VAN and related organizations about issues concerning members.

4. Participate in and benefit from activities of VAN.

Article 12. Obligations of VAN members

1. Fully comply with VAN Constitution and decisions of the General Assembly and VAN Executive Committee.

2. Protect VAN's principles and support VAN's benefits.

3. Participate in VAN activities and complete tasks that are assigned by VAN, and/or volunteered by members.

4. Cooperate with other members in order to achieve VAN's objectives. Engage in popularizing VAN Constitution in order to attract new members.

5. Pay VAN member fee.

6. Keep the reputation of VAN.

Chapter 4

ORGANIZATION OF VAN

Article 13. The General Assembly

1. There shall be a VAN General Assembly every two years. In special cases, VAN can have extraordinary session when

requested by 2/3 (two thirds) of the members of the Executive Committee or at least 1/2 (half) of the full members.

2. The dates of the General Assembly shall be announced to all members at least six months in advance. Agenda of the Assembly shall be announced by the Executive Committee at least three months in advance.

3. The General Assembly is to:

3.1. Discuss and approve activities, operations and financial reports of VAN in the past term;

3.2. Decide on amendments to VAN Constitution, name or logo (if any);

3.3. Decide on future directions, operations, activity plans and organizational issues of VAN in the next term;

3.4. Elect VAN Executive Committee and Supervisory Committee for the next term.

3.5. Approve Decisions of the Assembly

3.6. Make decisions on other issues based on VAN principles, objectives, and constitution, and the laws.

Article 14. VAN Executive Committee

1. Members of VAN Executive Committee

Members of Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly. The number of members in the Committee is determined by the General Assembly.

2. The Executive Committee has the functions and powers to:

2.1. Coordinate the implementation of the action plans and decisions of the General Assembly;

2.2. Determine the organization and operations of VAN Office and its functional units;

2.3. Issue rules and regulations on the operations of the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee, and the Supervisory Committee. Issue regulations on: uses and management of assets, finance, performance evaluation, registration and termination of VAN membership, and others issues that are appropriate under the VAN Constitution;

2.4. Appoint Chairperson, Deputy Chairpersons, General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary and members of VAN Standing Committee;

2.5. Consider and decide on additional appointments and replacement of members of the Executive Committee. Additionally appointed members must not exceed 1/3 (one third) of the number of members elected by the General Assembly;

2.6. Decide on the organization of the General Assembly, extraordinary sessions and annual meetings regulated by Article 13 of this Constitution;

2.7. Make decisions on the participation of international organizations, the implementation of programs and projects, and the receipt of funding.

Article 15. The Standing Committee

1. The Standing Committee shall be appointed by VAN Executive Committee. The number of members of the Standing Committee does not exceed 1/3 (one third) of that of the Executive Committee, consisting of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairpersons, General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary and members.

2. The Standing Committee has the following rights and responsibilities:

2.1. Manage regular operations of VAN between two Executive Committee meetings, on behalf of VAN Executive Committee;

2.2. Direct and supervise the implementation of VAN Constitution and Decisions of VAN Executive Committee;

2.3. Consider and decide on rewards and disciplines;

2.4. Make decisions on the establishment of functional units, consultation and training organizations and centers, and VAN representative offices;

2.5. There shall be a regular VAN Standing Committee meeting every three months. Extraordinary meetings can be convened when necessary.

Article 16. VAN Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons

1. VAN Chairperson shall be elected by the Executive Committee; accountable to the Executive Committee and the Standing Committee; and shall be the legal representative of VAN, taking the general responsibility of all VAN operations.

2. Rights and responsibilities of VAN Chairperson

2.1. Formulate objectives, strategies of VAN operations and organizations, make appropriate adjustments to current strategies according to new information about important national and international issues, in order to ensure the sustainable development of VAN;

2.2. Chair meetings of VAN Executive Committee and Standing Committee.

3. Deputy Chairpersons shall be elected by VAN Executive Committee and be responsible for assisting the Chairperson and performing tasks assigned by the Chairperson.

4. The terms of Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons coincide with the term of the Executive Committee. Each person must not take a position for more than two consecutive terms.

Article 17. VAN General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary

1. The General Secretary is elected by the Executive Committee, working as an agent of the Chairperson in managing daily activities, implementing programs and operations approved by the Executive Committee.

2. Rights of the General Secretary

2.1. Make annual planning and draft monthly, quarterly and annual reports for the Executive Committee;

2.2. Do managerial work, manage daily activities of VAN subordinated units; direct and coordinate operations of VAN Head Office and functional units under the supervisions of VAN Chairperson;

2.3. Prepare agenda for the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Standing Committee;

3. The Deputy General Secretary assists the General Secretary by doing tasks assigned by the General Secretary.

Article 18. VAN Supervisory Committee

1. The Supervisory Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly, consisting of: the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and members. The Supervisory Committee Chairperson must be a member of VAN Standing Committee. The Supervisory Committee meets every 6 (six) months and is accountable to VAN Executive Committee. The term of the Supervisory Committee coincides with that of the Executive Committee.

2. The Supervisory Committee is responsible for:

2.1. Monitoring and inspecting the implementation of this Constitution, decisions of the General Assembly and of VAN Executive Committee;

2.2. Auditing financial activities and the use of VAN assets as regulated by the laws;

2.3. Handling complaints and accusations within VAN;

2.4. Providing consultation to VAN in monitoring the implementation of government policies regarding persons with ASD;

2.5. Auditing a member of the Executive Committee upon the approval of VAN Standing Committee;

2.6. Meeting every 6 (six) months.

Article 19. Offices of VAN and functional units

1. VAN Office composes of Head, Deputy Head and staffs working on contracts under the management of VAN General Secretary.

2. VAN Office and functional units will develop the operation regulations as well as their functions and responsibilities and submit to the Standing Committee for approval.

3. The Head manages VAN Office operations according to the regulations approved by the Standing Committee.

4. VAN has functional units; each functional unit consists of Head, Deputy Head and staffs; functional units shall be established or closed by VAN Standing Committee. Head of each functional unit shall develop its operation regulations and submit to the Standing Committee for approval.

Chapter 5

VAN FINANCES AND ASSETS

Article 20. Income sources

1. Membership fees.
 2. Funding from domestic and international organizations and individuals;
 3. Legal fundraising activities of VAN;
 4. Government funding to implement programs and projects assigned by the government.
 5. Financial supports from the government as specified in the current laws and regulations (if any).
 6. Legitimate income from VAN activities.
 7. Other legitimate income.
- Income must not be distributed to members.

Article 21. Expenditures

1. All expenditures must comply with VAN Guidelines for allowable expenditures and the current laws.
2. Implementing of programs and activities supporting persons with ASD (including those supporting organizations of persons with ASD).
3. Organizing VAN General Assembly and meetings.
4. Popularizing, training and publishing VAN materials regarding ASD;
5. International relations.
6. Wages, salaries and administrative expenses of VAN Office.
7. Rewards.

8. Propaganda.
9. Purchases and maintenance of assets used for VAN Office.
10. Training and education.

Article 22. VAN Assets

VAN assets include properties and other valuables purchased using legitimate VAN income. All assets shall be audited annually and must be used efficiently.

Article 23. Principles of management and uses of assets and income

The management and uses of VAN assets and income must be conducted according to the current laws and regulations, and shall be audited by competent state bodies.

Article 24. Settlement of assets and finances in cases of VAN splitting, merging, and disclosure

Settlement of assets and finances in cases of VAN splitting, merging and disclosure must comply with the current laws and regulations.

Chapter 6

REWARDS AND DISCIPLINES

Article 25. Rewards

Members with good performance shall be evaluated for an award certificate. Members with excellent performance shall be reported to the government for awards. Regulations of rewards are set by VAN Executive Committee, and comply with the Law on emulation and rewarding of Viet Nam.

Article 26. Disciplines

1. Member organizations and individuals violating VAN Constitution and decisions, damaging VAN reputation and assets shall be disciplined based on the seriousness of the offense. Disciplines include reprimand, warning, dismissal and accusation.

2. Types of discipline decided by VAN Executive Committee include dismissal, and expelling from VAN. Types of discipline decided by VAN Standing Committee include reprimand and warning.

Chapter 7

IMPLEMENTATION PROVISION

Article 27. Amendments to this Constitution

Amendment to this Constitution must be agreed by more than 1/2 (half) of the members present at VAN General Assembly, and must be submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval.

Article 28. Effectiveness

1. This Constitution consists of 7 chapters, 28 articles, approved at the First General Assembly establishing VAN and comes into effect on 30 August 2013.

2. All VAN members are responsible for implementing this Constitution. VAN Standing Committee is responsible for guiding and facilitating the implementation of this Constitution.

VIETNAM AUTISM NETWORK RECOMMENDATIONS



Vietnam Autism Network Recommendations

Kiến nghị của Mạng lưới Người Tự kỷ Việt nam

We, the representatives of people with autism, their parents, family members, representatives of autism-related clubs and organizations, with more than 70 persons, gathered in Hanoi, Vietnam from 29 to 30 August 2013 to attend the Workshop on the Roadmap for the Establishment of the Vietnam Autism Network (VAN) with the theme “Towards a friendly community for people with Autism”. It was our honor that H.E. Mr. Nguyen Trong Dam, Vice Minister, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam, kindly opened and attended the Workshop. The Workshop participants reached consensus and established the Vietnam Autism Network.

In line with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” in Asia and the Pacific, the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community and the proclaimed ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2011-2020, the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Social Welfare and Development, 2011-2015, the Bandar Seri Begawan Recommendations on Autism and the Law on Persons with Disabilities of Vietnam, we have strived to raise the voice of people with autism, their parents and family members. Our commitment was shared for the establishment of the Vietnam Autism Network throughout the Workshop, with the theme “Act for Autism Now”.

In view of the stated perspectives, the Workshop recommends as follows:

1. Autism should be considered in laws, policies and programs relating to disability and development by the Government of Vietnam;
2. According to the needs of people with autism and their family members, opportunities for education, health care, social welfare, vocational training and employment should be provided to persons with autism in collaboration with experts and professionals on autism;
3. Research on autism should be conducted continuously to support the effective planning, implementation and evaluation of necessary measures;



4. Capacity-building training should be available for people with autism, their parents and other family members, social workers and policy makers to effectively response to their needs;
5. Standardized methods to assess autism and evidence-based interventions should be introduced in Vietnam;
6. In partnerships with the Government of Vietnam through the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Training, the Vietnam Federation on Disability, other relevant agencies/organizations in Vietnam, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability, the ASEAN Autism Network and other regional/international partners, the Vietnam Autism Network should be strengthened to effectively implement its action plans toward creating favorable environment for people in autism who wish to live in a community independently;

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the organizers: the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam (MoLISA), the Vietnamese Federation on Disability (VFD), the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and the ASEAN Autism Network (AAN). We also appreciate the support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) in organization of this Workshop.

END

INTERIM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



VAN Logo



The Newly Elected Executive Members of the Vietnam Autism Network

1. Honorary Chairperson: Ms. Dang Huynh Mai
2. Chairperson: Ms. Pham Thi Yen
3. Deputy Chairperson in Hanoi: Ms. Tran Thi Hoa Mai
4. Deputy Chairperson in Ho Chi Minh City: Ms. Pham Thi Kim Tam
5. Deputy Chairperson in Danang: Ms. Huynh Thi My Dung
6. General Secretary: Ms. Hoàng Ngọc Bích

ANNEX

WELCOME REMARKS

H.E. Mr. Nguyen Trong Dam

Vice Minister

Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA)

Your Excellency Mr. Akiie Ninomiya, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability

Madame Dang Huynh Mai, President, Vietnam Federation on Disability

Your Excellency Mr. Lam Tuong Vu, Chairman, Hanoi Autism's Parents' Club, representing of all parents

Dear Parents,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of MoLISA, I would like to warmly welcome and thank you all for your presence at the Workshop on the Roadmap for establishment of Vietnam Autism Network.

When a child is born, with or without disability, he/she has hidden potentials, those potentials are being tapped properly, the child can maximize his/her capacity to contribute to the socio-economic life. There are many evidences for this fact in the world and in Vietnam. However, the right to development of children with autism is always difficult to realize, not only in Vietnam but also in the world if social barriers, the principle of best interest and no discrimination are not enforced in reality and in socio-economic and political consideration.

At present, the number of children with autism in Vietnam has increased quite rapidly. In addition, there are many cases in which children have autism for long time but were not detected or intervened early. Moreover, healthcare workers, education staffs and parents also lack proper knowledge related to early detection and care for children with autism. The community awareness on caring, protection and ensuring the rights for children with autism is also limited. Consequently, children could not speak or integrate into the society and will have to rely on the care of other people for their whole life.

Although autism is a kind of developmental disorder that could affect the social and communicational skills of children, many researches point out that children with autism can integrate entirely into the family, school and community as well as contribute to the society later if autism is being detected, intervened early, comprehensively, properly and patiently.

Many opinions consider children with autism are disabled children. However, the new approach to disability emphasize that every people are the same and there will be no one disabled if we have an accessible environment for all. Vietnam has focused on communication and awareness raising for the community and society to change attitude for people with disability. The Government also supports

to establish the organizations and association of people with disability. With the new approach to disability issue, the participation of parents, community in caring, educating and ensuring the rights to development of children with autism is very important.

In this background, MoLISA highly appreciate the significance of VAN establishment in Vietnam. This network shall play important role in enhancing the awareness of community, family and society in realization of rights for people with autism in particular and people with disability in general. I believe that our workshop will have effective discussion to build a roadmap for the establishment of VAN as soon as possible.

On behalf of MoLISA, I would like to sincerely thank APCD, AAN, the parent groups and representatives from all line Ministries and agencies for your presence and contribution to this workshop. Wish the workshop success. Wish you all good health.

Thank you very much.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Lam Tuong Vu

Chairman

Hanoi Autisms' Parents Children Club

Distinguished guests,

On behalf of the parents of children with autism present at the Workshop today and all other parents of children with autism across the country, firstly I would like to thank the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam, the APCD, AAN and Vietnam Union of Associations of Persons with Disabilities for their support in organizing this workshop. This is the platform for us to raise issues closely related to the life and future of our families with children with autism!

Autism has been recognized in the world as a lifelong disability which has severe impact on the lives of sufferers. If autism is not detected, early intervened and without other special care, support, and education, adult autistic people do not have the ability to live independently and can become a burden of the society. The high number of children with autism at present can be a threat to the later development of society. Aware of this matter, we have had a lot of effort of both interventions and education, with an aim to save our children and mitigate the risk of negative impacts on the community as well. On the other hand, we also mobilize community effort to understand, sympathize, and share with people with autism just as develop appropriate social policies for people with autism. To achieve these objectives, we need to unite the hearts of all parents with autistic children for consensus. The outcome will be even more significant with the support of the community, specialized departments as well as state management departments and other units and organizations supporting people with disabilities. Today's conference is an important benchmark for the concern about autism in Vietnam, and is what we have longed for over many years and willing to participate in.

We hope that after this workshop a network of parents with autistic children in Vietnam will be established as a bridge among the groups of family with autistic members in provinces, cities, regions. Based on that we can collaborate to develop comprehensive and appropriate action plans to ensure sustainable livelihood for people with autism in localities. That will also indirectly bring stability and social development in general.

We wish all of you good health and success for our conference!

Thank you all again!

OPENING REMARKS

Ms. Dang Huynh Mai

Chairwoman

Vietnam Federation on Disability (VFD)

Distinguished guests and all the participants in the Workshop on the Roadmap for the Establishment of the Vietnam Autism Network,

For the past years, the Vietnamese Government at all levels and the whole society has been paying more and more attention to people with disabilities with the adoption of the Law on People with Disability which plays the role of guiding the specific activities, bringing more benefits to the persons with disabilities and encouraging persons with disabilities to integrate into the community.

On behalf of the Vietnam Federation on Disability, I would like to express our greetings and support to such a significant workshop today reflecting the attention of the society and community to persons with disabilities, especially children and children with autism, the number of whom tends to increase for the recent time.

Autism has been realized to be a development impairment which causes life-long impacts at different levels. In Viet Nam, however, the concept of autism is quite new, health, education and social services are still limited; the community misunderstands autism as some psychological disorder caused by the living environment. That has prevented timely and proper intervention for children with autism. In that context, I welcome the efforts of parents of autistic children who have united, encouraged each other, shared their knowledge and experience, strive tirelessly to help their children overcome autism. Compared with other types of disability, people with autism meet many more difficulties in integrating into the society; therefore, the parents play an important role in helping them. the establishment of an organization of autistic people's families is very necessary, in order to provide further support for intervention with autism, also to represent the rights of people with autism, protect and support them in the future as well.

On behalf of Viet Nam Federation on Disability, I would like to present my sincere thanks to MoLISA, Ministry of Health, Education, APCD as well as other organizations and individuals in this Workshop for their concern in this matter. All of you are here for a common good goal: a happier life for unlucky people with disabilities in general and people with autism in particular. I hope we shall attain the workshop objectives and expectations. I wish you two effective working days and success to the Workshop.

Thank you all.

PROGRAM

Day 1: Thursday 29 August 2013	
08:00-09:00	Registration Music Performance by Children with Autism in Hanoi Facilitated by : Ms. Mai Anh
09:00-10:00	Item 1: Opening a. Welcome Remarks & Messages - Welcome Remarks by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Trong Dam, Vice Minister, MoLISA - Opening Remarks by Mr. Lam Tuong Vu, Chairman, Hanoi Autisms' Parents Children Club - Opening Message by Mr. Akiie, Ninomiya, Executive Director, APCD - Opening Address by Ms. Dang Huynh Mai, Chairwoman, VFD b. Group Photo
10:00-10:15	Refreshment Break
10:15-11:00	Item 2: Understanding Autism and Regional Collaboration on Autism in ASEAN - Mr. Malai Hj Abdullah Othman, Chairperson, AAN
11:00-12:00	Item 3: Situation and Policy System of Persons with Autism and their Families in Vietnam a. Social Work and Care for Persons with Autism - Mr. Nguyen Van Hoi, Deputy Director General, Department of Social Protection, MoLISA b. Supporting Services for Children with Mental Disorders, Especially for Children with Autism - Ms. Vu Thi Kim Hoa, Head of Child Care Division, Department of Child Protection and Care, MoLISA c. Survey Results on Education for Children with Autism and Related Policy System - Associate Professor Dr. Nguyen Thi Hoang Yen, Deputy Director, Institute of Educational Sciences d. Health Care Policy System and Services - Dr. Thanh Ngoc Minh, Head of Mental Health Department, Central Children Hospital, Ministry of Health
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-14:30	Item 4: Situation of Persons with Autism and their Families in Vietnam a. Overview - Ms. Pham Thi Kim Tam, Representative, Ho Chi Minh City Autism's Parents' Group b. Experiences on Working with Children with Autism - Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh, Director, Special Education Centre, College of Pedagogy Hanoi - Dr. Do Thuy Nga, Director, Centre for Hope c. Experiences and Recommendations of Parents' Group in Vietnam - Ms. Pham Thi Yen, Representative, Hanoi Autism's Parents Club d. Questions and Answers
14:30-14:45	Refreshment Break
14:45-16:30	Item 5: Networking and Collaboration on Autism in Vietnam a. Perspectives of the Vietnam Federation on Disability - Ms. Dang Huynh Mai, Chairwoman, VFD b. Proposal on the Establishment of the Vietnam Autism Network - Mr. Pham Dong Lin, Ho Chi Minh City Parents' Group c. Discussion – All participants

Day 2: Friday 30 August 2013	
08:30-10:00	Item 6: Establishment of the Vietnam Autism Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement for the Establishment of VAN - Discussion and Approval of the Charter and Logo of VAN - Election of the Executive Board of VAN - Development of the Activity Plans of VAN
10:00-10:15	Refreshment Break
10:15-11:30	Item 7: Statement of the Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the Statement of the Workshop - Discussion - Agreement on the Statement
11:30-12:00	Item 8: Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing Remarks by AAN - Closing Remarks by APCD - Closing Remarks by VFD - Closing Remarks by VAN - Closing Remarks by MoLISA
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-16:00	Internal Meeting of VAN and stakeholders
16:00	END



Performance by Persons with Autism during the Opening of the Workshop



REPORT ON
**WORKSHOP ON
THE ROADMAP FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE VIETNAM AUTISM NETWORK**



29-30 August 2013 | Hanoi, Vietnam

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