

## VISIT TO HA GIANG PROVINCE

We visited Ha Giang province from 20 to 22 November 2014 along with two special guests, Deputy Director of Department of Child Care and Protection, Mr Dang Hoa Nam, and First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Hanoi, Ms Yoko Tsuruya. On 20 November afternoon, we left Hanoi and a six-hour drive brought us to Ha Giang city where we were warmly welcomed by the President of People's Committee of Ha Giang and Ha Giang DOLISA staff.

On the morning of 21 November, we went to the Connecting Unit and met the two counsellors recruited in October 2014. They appreciated the three-day training during which experienced counsellors from the Hanoi Operation Centre offered them training in practical skills such as answering phone calls and asking questions. Under the diligent guidance of the trainers, the new counsellors learned how to operate the hotline effectively. The counsellors expressed a desire to attend more such trainings in Hanoi. Mr Tran Xuan Bac, the Director of the Social Protection Centre which accommodates the Connecting Unit, stated that though the counsellors are handling the software with ease, they need more knowledge and experience. Operational challenges were also discussed with Mr Bac.

On 21 November afternoon, a Working Group meeting was held with representatives of Women's Union, Border Guard and Social Vices Prevention. The chairperson, Ms Mac Thi Lien, Vice Director of Ha Giang DOLISA, presented the activities implemented, and the challenges faced. During the discussion that followed, the importance of communication activities was highlighted. Many people in Ha Giang are not familiar with hotline services in general, far less the Anti-TIP Hotline; therefore, proactive promotion of the Hotline is required to increase the number of calls. In fact, a woman, whose 17-year-old sister went missing, called the Hotline after her friend shared the information following a communication event in a market. Though communication activities have an impact, it is necessary to carefully plan the expansion of effective communication activities. Maintenance of hotline equipment is also a challenge in mountainous rural Ha Giang as it is not easy to find competent IT engineers. This reaffirmed the need for clear plan for Hotline hardware and software maintenance with support from the central office.



*Above: Working Group meeting*

*Middle: Connecting Unit*

*Below: Interviewing the new counsellors*

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## ANTI-TIP NETWORKING SEMINAR IN JAPAN

The Seminar on Promotion of Networking among Asian Countries on Anti-Human Trafficking was held in Japan, from 19 October to 1 November 2014. Twelve delegates participated in a tightly scheduled programme and had a fruitful time. From Vietnam, Ms Le Thi Thanh of the Department of Overseas Labour Management, MOLISA, attended the seminar. Participants also came from Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, and Myanmar. Ms Thanh was actively engaged in discussions and emphasized the need to pay more attention to labour exploitation. She visited DCCP on 24 November 2014 and shared her learnings from the seminar as well as her knowledge of labour issues with our counsellors.

## VISIT OF POLARIS SPECIALIST TO HANOI

Ms My Lo, Global Hotlines Program Specialist of the Polaris Project in the US came to Hanoi on her way back from Australia. We visited UN ACT, Hagar, World Vision, Centre for Women and Development and Blue Dragon to exchange information. Ms Lo also came to our Operation Centre to meet our staff and counsellors. She introduced the activities of Polaris and participated in a Q&A session. We discussed the possibility of a joint counsellor training in March 2015.

## LATEST NEWS FROM VIETNAM

### SELECTED NEWS FROM VIETNAM

#### 1) Counter Trafficking Network meeting in Hanoi

On 25 November 2014, the Counter Trafficking Network, a group of NGOs and International Organizations working against human trafficking in Vietnam, held a quarterly meeting. Several organizations, including IOM, Samaritan's Purse, RaFH (Institute for Reproductive and Family Health), ILO and JICA participated in the meeting chaired by UN ACT and World Vision. We exchanged information about the activities and plans of each organization and policy development to explore opportunities for collaboration and avoid overlapping efforts.

#### 2) Gender Gap Index: Vietnam ranked 76

The World Economic Forum released Global Gender Gap



Above: Ms Thanh making a presentation at the Seminar  
Below: Meeting with Ms Lo at Hanoi Operation Centre

Report 2014. Vietnam's score is 0.692 and it is ranked 76 among 142 countries, down from 73 in 2013. Japan is ranked 104 with a score of 0.658. Vietnam has shown some improvement in education since 2007. The score for political empowerment is lower than the average though economic participation is above average. Japan scores close to average on all aspects except political empowerment, which is much lower than the average. In the Mekong region, Laos is ranked 60, Thailand 61, and Cambodia 108. For more details, see:

<http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/>

## ACTIVITY PLAN

Dec: Mission to An Giang province

Youth Event on International Volunteers Day



An Giang  
1800 8077

Ha Giang  
1800 1282

Project for the Establishment of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Hotline in Vietnam

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