

## JAPANESE YOUTH VISIT TO PROJECT

On 28 July 2015, a group of Japanese youth, the finalist of an annual essay contest organized by JICA in 2014, visited the Project. They are eight students conscious about social issues, who took up various issues such as organ transplant and international exchange, and shared their views and opinions in their prizewinning essays. They succeeded in meeting high expectation of Vietnamese staff and we all had meaningful time, exchanging information, ideas and opinions.

Following a screening of a video about a Vietnamese human trafficking victim, we briefly introduced the definition of human trafficking and relevant data. Then, the students had a quiz in two teams. Both teams competed very well, putting ideas forward, discussing, laughing, and having an exciting close match with the score of 40 to 50. After having fun, we explained project activities, achievements and the function of the Hotline. Then, the students observed the call centre activity and talked with the Hotline counsellors.

They asked a range of questions from those about the Hotline system (“how are the perpetrators punished in case of cross-border trafficking?”, “are there manuals for the Hotline counsellors?”) to those about individual counsellors’ thoughts towards their work (“I can imagine working as a Hotline counsellor is not easy – what made you decide to be a Hotline counsellor?”). The counsellors answered to these well-thought questions with smiles or a serious look depending on the topic.

The Project has received visitors from different countries, most of whom are specialists in this field and naturally asked specific technical questions. The questions and comments from the students showed non-specialist genuine empathy: what victims think and feel in such a situation; if I were in that situation, what would I do?; how hard it would be for the family members of victims, etc. This sincerity strongly impressed all of us and we hope that the visit was able to make such challenges and sufferings of victims reach their hearts. These young Japanese may keep thinking about and discussing with their friends the issue of human trafficking and the needs of individual actions in Japan and beyond.

<http://www.jica.go.jp/hiroba/menu/essay/2014/index.html>

(Link to the JICA essay contest 2014 in Japanese)



*Above: Students in quiz competition*

*Middle: In the call centre*

*Below: Group photo with counsellors*

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## COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In Vietnam, we have a networking forum of International Organizations, Bilateral donors, and NGOs working for counter-human trafficking, Counter Trafficking Network. We exchange information through regular meetings and a mailing list, and have joint activities according to each organization's mandate. We also submitted inputs to the national programme as a member of the Network.

Cooperation includes Hotline number promotion by World Vision, Women's Union, Oxfam (publicizing the number in awareness raising materials), and ILO (leaflets distribution at events in provinces). Samaritan's Purse (NGO) also introduced the Hotline number during its awareness raising activities in Lai Chau province in July. We also plan to implement an awareness raising activity by Hanoi Foreign Trade University students (please see Hotline Newsletter May 2015) in August, in cooperation with World Vision.



A banner with Hotline number (Samaritan's Purse)

## LATEST NEWS FROM VIETNAM

### 1) US TIP Report 2015

On 27 July 2015, US TIP report was released. Vietnam has been ranked at Tier 2 since the first report in 2001, except for 2010 and 2011 when it was ranked at Tier 2 Watch List.

The 2015 Report specifically takes up the labour trafficking issues including forced labour on fishing boats, which attracted medi attention recently, and trafficking and forced labour within the global supply chain. Labour trafficking is also an issue in Vietnam and the downgrade to Tier 2 Watch List in 2010 was in fact largely due to the slow response to labour trafficking. 2015 Report, though acknowledging progress in policy development and implementation, urges the Vietnamese government to make more efforts on this front.

<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2015/index.htm>

(Link to the US TIP Report 2015)

### 2) UK Prime Minister announced strong measures for counter trafficking

Many Vietnamese TIP victims, especially children, are identified in the UK. Particularly, Vietnam is the 4<sup>th</sup> top sending country and estimated 3,000 children are said to be forced to work in cannabis factories and nail salons. David Cameron expressed his strong commitment to strengthening counter-trafficking measures prior to his visit to Vietnam. The Modern Slavery Act passed in March 2015 requires companies with a turnover of 36 million pound or over to disclose their efforts to prevent forced labour and human trafficking within their supply chain.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/07/29/human-trafficking-slavery-david-cameron-vietnam\\_n\\_7893032.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/07/29/human-trafficking-slavery-david-cameron-vietnam_n_7893032.html)

(Huffington Post, 29 July 2015)

## ACTIVITY PLAN

August: Communication activity in Yen Bai province  
Case book development



An Giang  
1800 8077

Ha Giang  
1800 1282

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

This newsletter intends to present the progress of the Project and relevant information. Views and contents are those of the experts, Yoshiko Ogawa and Kayo Goda, and neither of JICA nor the Vietnamese government. This publication or parts of it may not be reproduced without permission