



Higher Education



USAID celebrates social work day with students in Hanoi

(Photo: USAID)



Students are trained using active-learning techniques at Cao Thang Technical College in Ho Chi Minh City

(Photo: USAID)

Since 2008, USAID/Vietnam has worked closely with the Government of Vietnam and the private sector to help reform the higher education system to produce trained, job-ready graduates that have the skills necessary to compete on an increasingly global market. Implementation of projects under the USAID Higher Education portfolio have already impacted over 30,000 university students by providing curriculum support, training, and capacity building at the faculty and administrative levels in the engineering and social work education sectors. By leveraging buy-in and funding from the private sector, USAID programming in higher education has been recognized worldwide as having far-reaching impact with a demand-driven focus.

HIGHER ENGINEERING EDUCATION ALLIANCE PROGRAM (HEEAP)

Since 2010, USAID, the Arizona State University Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering (ASU), and Intel Corporation, in collaboration with Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs, has been working with top technical universities and vocational colleges in Vietnam to transform engineering education from passive, theory-based instruction to active, project-based instruction.

The engine of HEEAP is faculty training and mentorship. Professors from eight colleges and universities attend training at ASU, where they prioritized reforms and worked together on curriculum design. Cohorts of faculty have returned to Vietnam and are implementing changes in curriculum, designing new courses and revamping labs based on improved teaching methods and new learning outcomes. Additional faculty is trained each year and all return home to train their peers on new methodologies. HEEAP also provides project assistance and mentoring for faculty throughout the program.

In 2012, USAID/Vietnam joined the expanded HEEAP initiative to target higher education administration to help develop modern institutional strategic planning capacity. This three-year project expansion aims to increase understanding of institutional research, evaluation, management principles, financial planning, assessment and quality assurance. USAID contributes to \$2 million to HEEAP and \$2.5 million to the expanded initiative.

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

USAID, San Jose State University, and Cisco Systems Inc. are collaborating on a \$2.5 million three-year project to run from 2012-2015. The program works with top universities in Vietnam to strengthen Vietnam's higher education social work programs to strengthen management and administration through networking to increase communication and experience-sharing across universities, enhance faculty development through one-on-one mentoring and specialized training, and develop and employ relevant curriculum that combines theory and skills learned in the classroom with actual real-world practice.

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