

SUMMARY OF THE MEETING ON EDUCATION ISSUES

Time & Date: 14:00 ~ 15:30 / Wednesday, October 24th 2007

Venue: Ministry of Education and Training, 49 Dai Co Viet, Hanoi

Present: Appendix I – List of Participants

I. Introduction of VBF and EWG

The Vietnam Business Forum (VBF) is a platform for dialogue between private sector and government to address issues of the businesses and work out suitable solutions. The role of VBF is to promote private sector involvement in the education sector in the same manner that it has promoted involvement in infrastructure development and the financial sector.

The Education Working Group (EWG) was established under the VBF umbrella. The group is comprised of a number of foreign and local private education institutions. The purpose of the establishment of the EWG is to set up a dialogue and partnership with MOET to address issues faced by non-public education providers in order that the Vietnam education sector develops to meet the requirements of the economy.

II. Main Issues Raised (please see in the education position paper for details):

- Quality assurance system and information system: The urgent need to establish accreditation systems, including independent accreditation institution to oversight academic quality issues, and dissemination of accreditation information to the public.

- Legal framework for higher and professional education activities
 - Relaxation of limitations on the establishment of higher education institutions - including foreign ones; Criteria for establishment of education institutions
 - Guidance on legal procedures for the establishment of non-traditional education institutions.
 - More autonomy for universities
 - Work permit for foreign trainers

- How to partner to find best solutions for issues raised: A process, not a one-time meeting; the EWG wishes to establish a long-term collaboration with MOET.

III. Response from the MOET

The issues raised in the position paper are fundamental (basic), and correct but not new. Resolution 14 (11/2005) on the reform of Vietnam's higher education 2006-2020 poses greater requirements.

Ref. Accreditation: Since 2005, with the issuance of the Law on Education, accreditation has been officially required by law. Prior to 2005, criteria for evaluating quality of higher education had been constructed, but a comprehensive accreditation system has not been made available. After the issuance of the law, one of the main tasks of MOET will be to establish such a system. A pilot project of accreditation has been implemented, in which 20 universities have been audited internally and 20 universities are subject to external audits. At the moment, MOET is developing a legal framework for the establishment of independent accreditation bodies and drafting regulations on accreditation process. The EWG is welcome to review and provide comments on these drafts.

In near future, a number of independent accreditation bodies will be established.

Ref. Autonomy for University: At present, autonomy is granted in different levels.

- The two National Universities are fully autonomous.
- The three regional universities have a large degree of autonomy in their operations (enrolment, staffing, degrees (bachelor, master, doctor), with the ministry only playing a supervisory role.
- The rest have partial autonomy:
 - Enrolment: MOET stipulates the benchmark; and provides regulations to supervise enrolment.
 - Staffing: decided by universities.
 - Program: MOET provides framework curricula, which stipulate the structure of the program and courses that account for 50% of the program. The rest is decided by the universities. In the near future, courses in politics will be reduced for certain programs.
- MOET will issue criteria for establishing autonomy. In the upcoming period, 12 more universities will be granted autonomy in the areas of research, development of curriculum, establishment of new programs, issuing degrees, etc.

Ref. Facilitation of Land Acquisition for Non-public Education Providers to Build up Facilities: MOET will hold seminars in the Mekong River Delta and Red River Delta to present the government's master plan for university/college development. It is hoped that the provincial governments will increase their understanding of the master plan and facilitate those universities established in the province.

Ref. Criteria for Establishment of Universities or Opening New Subjects of Study will be improved in line with administration reform. One-stop shop has been introduced. MOET will issue clear criteria for the establishment of new universities which ensure minimum facilities for training operations.

Ref. Work Permit for Foreign Teachers: MOET is drafting a new Decree to replace Decree 285 on the functions and responsibilities of MOET. There will be two new departments set up: Department of foreign training, which will be responsible for all matters related to foreign training such work permit, foreign joint training programs, study abroad programs, or receiving foreign students and teachers to come to VN for studying or teaching; and the Department of management of training facilities, equipment and children's toy. This department will be in charge of issuing relevant regulations and supervising implementation.

Ref. Industry-University Linkage: MOET is considering enterprises as strategic partners for universities. A workshop will be organized in HCMC by the end of October to discuss enterprise demand for training, research and technology transfer. Training contracts will be signed by a number of universities and enterprises.

A national center of HR training will be established to identify enterprise's needs in order to design suitable training strategies for universities. This will require support from VCCI and VBF. MOET suggested VBF help survey HR needs of enterprises.

Ref. Degree Recognition: As already stipulated in the Law on Education (Article 110) and implementing Decree 75 (Article 15), education institution that are accredited and

have quality recognized by foreign or Vietnamese accreditation bodies will be recognized.

Ref. Role of MOET: The suggestion that MOET should strengthen its role in post assessment rather than in restriction of the market entry seems irrelevant to the educational sector, as this is a special sector and its product is not repairable. Therefore strict supervision over the entire sector is needed.

III. CONCLUSION

- The EWG should provide MOET with more concrete recommendations
- The International department will be MOET's contact point for the EWG
- The two sides should continue their dialogue
- The Education group will give a report at the upcoming VBF on Dec.4, 2007.

Appendix I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)		
1	Mr.Banh Tien Long	Vice Minister
2	Ms.Tran Thi Ha	Director – Higher Education Dept.
3	Ms.Nguyen Thi Le Huong	Vice Director – Higher Education Dept.
4	Mr.Tran Ba Viet Dzung	Director – International Cooperation Dept.
5	Mr.Nguyen Van Khoi	Deputy Director- International Cooperation Dept.
6	Mr.Tran Quang Quy	Chief of Office
7	Mr.Hoang Ngoc Vinh	Director – Professional Education Dept.
8	Mr.Nguyen Quang Huy	Senior Expert – Planning and Finance Dept.
9	Mr.Nguyen Duc Cuong	Secretary of Ministry Management
Education Working Group – Vietnam Business Forum		
10	Ms.Ton Nu Thi Ninh	President – Tri Viet University Project
11	Mr.Patrick Downey	Director – TUV Rheinland's Training Academy /Auscham
12	Ms.Bui Tran Phuong	Rector- Hoa Sen University
13	Ms.Phan Hoang Hoa	Director – Hanoi Branch – Apollo Education & Training Organization
14	Mr.Le Truong Tung	Rector – FPT University
15	Mr.Gian Tu Trung	Founding Chairman – PACE Institute of Directors
16	Mr.Nguyen Van Quang	Director – Canadian Education Centre/Cancham
17	Ms.Dang Kim Nhung	Vice Rector –Thang Long University
18	Ms.Tran Phuong Trinh	Program manager – Business Edge – IFC-MPDF
Vietnam Business Forum		
19	Mr.Sin Foong Wong	IFC Country Manager – CoChair of VBF
20	Ms.Pham Lien Anh	Project Officer
Representatives from Other Institutions		
21	Mr.Phan Quang Trung	Vice Standing Chairman – Association of Non-public University and Colleges
22	Mr.Vu Tien Luc	General Secretary – Association of Non-public University and Colleges
23	Mr.Nguyen Quang Huy	Foreign Investment Agency – Ministry of Planning and Investment