



Trinh Foundation

AUSTRALIA

Newsletter



Opening ceremony of Speech Therapy training Course, 6 September 2010

".. the Directors of TFA would like to thank all sponsors and supporters as we continue our mission to assist the Vietnamese people to establish speech therapy as a profession in Vietnam."

On September 6th, 2010, 18 Vietnamese health professionals commenced the 2 year Speech Therapy Training Program at Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine (PNTU) in partnership with Trinh Foundation Australia (TFA) and the ENT Hospital of HCM City. Whilst this was a challenging time for students and lecturers alike, it was extremely heartening to witness the commitment of all involved.

The Directors of TFA would like to thank all sponsors and supporters as we continue our mission to assist the Vietnamese people to establish speech therapy as a profession in Vietnam. TFA values the strong relationships that have been developed with all of our existing partners. We look forward to continuing to work together to meet the inevitable challenges associated with such a new and innovative course.

Our special thanks and appreciation goes to Marie Atherton who has done an amazing job organising and now co-ordinating this first ever post graduate training course in Vietnam at PNT University.

Students of the Speech Therapy Training Program are currently back in their workplaces undertaking clinical training with the supervision of visiting Australian volunteer speech pathologists. This will no doubt again be a challenging time, but one that is also extremely stimulating and exciting for all involved.

Since the start of the course, TFA have been busy:

- Providing speech therapy resources and text books to PNTU.
- Funding interpreting and translating costs. We are very grateful to Ms Chau, retired head of Medical

Linguistics at PNTU for her wonderful expertise, as well as to Ms Hang for her assistance.

- Providing computers and office supplies to PNTU for the speech therapy staff.
- Providing a scholarship to the *Office of Genetic Counseling and Disabled Children* in Hue, to enable a graduate staff member to attend the course.
- Arranging highly regarded Guest Lecturer from Charles Sturt University, Dr Alison Winkworth, to lecture on Voice and its Disorders.
- Collaborating with Australian Business Volunteers to enable Louise Brown, Senior Lecturer in Speech Pathology at James Cook University to assist Marie to coordinate the clinical education for 10 weeks commencing December 6.
- Sourcing Clinical Educators for the first Clinical Education Term which will run from December - February.



TFA welcomes Dr Alison Winkworth to our Board of Directors. Her input to date as Advisor in Teaching and Learning has been invaluable and we look forward to harnessing more of her skills and indefatigable energy as the newest member of our Board.

TFA also extends our thanks to Jane Hepenstall, Emily Armstrong, Nadine Lawson, Jeanette Cowell and Holly Daley, who will join the team as partly self-funded volunteers during the coming months to provide 2 weeks of clinical education to each of the 18 post graduate students in their workplace.

Our thanks to organisations including: AVI, Global Development Group, Australian Consulate HCMC, Australian Society of Orthodontists (NSW Branch), Speech Pathology Australia, Australian Dental Association (Newcastle Division), Australian Business Volunteers, Gosford City Rotary Club, Zonta International Central Coast

branch, Soroptimist International (Brisbane Water) and Guild Insurances. Our sincere thanks also go to the many individual speech pathologists who have donated through "Treatment Session for Trinh", as well as the many other individual donors and those who have supported fund raising through activities such as trivia nights, dinners and raffles.

This assistance is making a significant contribution towards improving the lives of those many children and adults in Vietnam who suffer from communication and swallowing disorders.

Please follow our progress through our website:

www.trinhfoundation.org

We look forward to your ongoing support in 2011.

Photos of our enthusiastic students and lecturers in action.



How can you help us?
For all donations please see our website
www.trinhfoundation.org

Trinh Foundation Australia is proud to be a partner of Global Development Group (Vietnam Speech-Language Program Project J594). GDG is an Australian Non Government Organisation [NGO] carrying out humanitarian projects with approved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty and provide long term solutions through the provision of quality aid and development projects. For more information about Global Development Group, (ABN 57 102 400 993), visit www.globaldevelopment.org.au