



Activity News

Cooperation with the High Impact Tourism Training Project/SNV

SIT has just started its cooperation with the High impact tourism training for informal sector (HITT) project. HITT is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by SNV - the Netherlands Development Organisation, in order to improve access to quality jobs in the tourism sector for underprivileged people.

Under this cooperation Agreement, SIT will sponsor its trainers to attend HITT's training of trainers (ToT) courses for Homestay Operators and Local Guides on 16-24 January 2013, and to develop and organise ToT training programme for Tourist Driver trainers in the coming months.

Value Chain Coordination Working Group Year-End Meeting

The meeting, held in SIT office on 26 December, was a special event for the project team and partners to review the project's last period interventions and discuss the work plan for 2013. In the meeting, the partners discussed existing issues in implementing project activities, but also showed their commitment in achieving the project goal through better collaboration for the FY2013.

Training Feedback

Negotiation and Bargaining Skill Training for CBT villagers in Dong Giang District was organised from 11 to 14 January 2013. "Through these trainings, we do not only learn new skills and knowledge to work in tourism but also learn some basic technical terms, and how to present our ideal structurally and logically", said Mr. Blo, an war veteran living in Bhoong village who joined this training and some other trainings.

"We also learn from each other through group activities in village trainings. When one does not know one thing, others might know and then the new knowledge is shared amongst members."

Seeing is Believing!

By Nguyen Thi Huyen, SIT Project Coordinator

It has been more than a year since I've been working for SIT and living in Quang Nam province. More exposures with local officials and communities bring me increased understanding of and fondness for who they are. The more I understand them, the more confident I feel in success of our work.

My belief is based on what we are seeing during the project implementation. For example, Catu ethnic villagers and My Son farmers showed us their commitment after a visit to learn from Community-Based Tourism (CBT) models in Hue and Quang Binh. "If Quang Binh and Hue farmers can do it, then we can do it!" they said.

The project has conducted many activities to help the villagers understand about and gain skills for CBT. Though, we still worry that it is difficult for farmers who hardly travel outside of their villages to expand from farming to providing service for tourists. Seeing is Believing! They then showed their commitments by investing their own efforts in building homestay, actively taking part in trainings, getting ready to receive tourists to their home and village.



We hope the New Year will bring local communities health, happiness, and more importantly, with the support from the government, extra incomes from tourism. Happy Lunar New Year!





Upcoming Events

17 January, Preparation Workshop for Assessment of Service Quality as well as Demand and Supply of Skilled Workers in Tourism Sector

Quang Nam's DoLISA will carry out the assessment under the support of Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). With strong experience working with vocational schools and enterprises in the sector at the national level, VCCI can support in the methodology of the assessment, and provide practical recommendations to solve the tourism human resources problem in the province.

22-31 January, Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Training

People in three project villages will take part in a three-day training on environmental sanitation and hygiene with the support of the project. The training aims to raise awareness amongst local villagers about the importance of keeping their living environment clean and more importantly appealing to tourists.

29 January, Quang Nam Rural Tourism Development and Promotion Strategy Consultative Workshop, Hoi An

The province is developing Rural Tourism Development and Promotion Strategy to promote pro-poor tourism development for the inland destinations with the support of the project. A workshop to collect inputs for the Strategy from tourism experts, districts' representative and tourism enterprises will be organised in Hoi An. In that workshop, a draft of the strategy will be presented and hopefully, a final version will be finalised soon after the workshop.

18-19 January, Brocade-weaving Product Training Replicated in Another Village

Some months ago, before we started our training, the Catu women in Droong village only weaved the clothes for their use with their culture. However, they now acquired knowledge how to produce with the customers' perspectives. This training is aiming to transfer new weaving techniques from Droong women to Bhoong women. The new techniques need to be replicated and developed more so that the Catu women can produce more interesting products for sale.



28 January - 3 February, Sewing Training for Brocade-Weaving Group

One important technique the Catu women were not yet taught is how to sew their brocade-weaving clothes to become used products for example, wallets, purse, bags, etc. Therefore, a group of seven women in each village of Bhoong and Droong will be trained to sew four sets of prototypes that is to be displayed at the outlet in the two villages, and in two Tourist Information Centres in Hoi An.



First Order Accomplished

The 4th January marks a special milestone for Droong women brocade weaving group. They just managed to deliver the very first business order on time from well-known Craft Link, a not-for-profit organization that supports traditional artisans.

The order is rather small - 25 pieces of table runner, and brought them VND150,000 (about US\$7.50) per piece after deducting the materials. The earning, although modest, has bought smiles and happiness to the women group. As it was their first business, they got real practice of the whole production process - from ordering materials, dividing job between members, to quality control of finishing products.

They whole group nourish hope that by obtaining regular orders, they can earn more money to invest in their children education for their brighter future to avoid poverty.



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