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Vocational Colleges Complain about No General Education at TVET Schools

From 2021, the Ministry of Education and Training does not allow TVET schools to teach general education contents, affecting learners of "9+" courses. Phu Tho College of Electromechanical complained that TVET schools have to hire teachers of continuation education units to teach "9+" learners, as the MoET does not permit TVET schools to teach general education subjects. This costs the college a big sum of money. Vietnam currently has 300,000 learners of both vocational training and general education. (Dan Tri Mar 22)

Association Suggests Education Ministry Manage Colleges in Vietnam

The Association of Vietnam Universities and Colleges (AVU&C) has once again suggested classifying college education as a part of higher education, or under the management of the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET). Vietnam began college training in 1970s and let the MoET manage this sector. In 2014, Vietnam issued Law on Vocational Education and let the MoLISA manage vocational colleges and let the MoET manage only pedagogical colleges. The AVU&C explained that vocational training is not classified as a separate level within the ISCED-2011 education program levels. Hence, the setting of vocational training as a standalone level does not match international practice. Besides, the AVU&C noted that the MoLISA has little experiences in managing education. As a result, the AVU&C suggested letting the MoET manage college again. It also recommended a system that vocational training certificate and high school certificate are at the same level, in order to push secondary school learners to advance to the correct paths. (Tuoi Tre Mar 18)

Vietnam Apparel Association Suggests No Minimum Wage Hike in 2021

The Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) has agreed with the suggestion of no hike in minimum zonal wage in 2021, in order to help firms ensure employments. The VITAS explained that the sector is having problems. Besides, Vietnam's consumer price index (CPI) was 3.23% in 2020, hence the current minimum zonal wage was 2.28% higher than the minimum livelihoods. The VITAS also disagreed with the suggestion of changing the date of annual hike of minimum zonal wage to July 1 and agreed with the suggestion of keeping that date on January 1. (CafeF, NDH, VnEconomy Mar 20)

Gov't Assigns VND9.4B to Help Develop Workforce for SMEs

PM has allocated VND9.4 billion from the state budget for education-training, and vocational training in 2021 to help associations and organizations develop labourers for SMEs in 2021. (Bao Chinh Phu Mar 18)







Vietnam May Increase Retirement Pensions, Social Security Benefits by 15%

The MoLISA is drafting a decree on increase of the retirement pensions and social insurance benefits for eight subjects by 15% from the beginning of 2022. The draft decree also increases the retirement pensions and social insurance benefits to VND2.5 million (\$107.3) per month for any payments below the rate. The MoLISA noted that the change aims to ease the pressure from the inflation and share the economic achievements, including gains from investments of the social insurance funds in 2019-2021, to beneficiaries. (NDH, Bao Chinh Phu, VietnamBiz, Thanh Nien, VTV, CafeF, Dan Tri Mar 21)

Business Sector and Labour Market

Foreign Cooperation

Agencies of Vietnam, Germany to Hold Renewable Energy Job Fair in May

School of Electrical Engineering, under Vietnam's Hanoi University of Science and Technology, has scheduled to organize a job fair in the field of renewable energy in May, as part of its cooperation program with the GIZ. The event will be held offline and livestreamed on Facebook. It aims to connect businesses and train students to work in the renewable energy sector, while reorienting training methods at schools and universities to suit recruitment needs. The job fair is expected to attract 500-1,000 participants, including renewables enterprises, students from universities and schools, lecturers, management agencies, local and foreign organizations. (Nang Luong Sach Vietnam Mar 22)

Singapore-based Firm Leads Top of 15 IT Firms in Vietnam in 2021: ITviec

Global Fashion Group (GFG), based in Singapore, has won first place in the top 15 information technology (IT) firms in Vietnam in 2021, according to ITviec. Specifically, 15 awardees listed in the top included Global Fashion Group, Orient Software Development Corp, Netcompany, Vinova, Giao Hang Tiet Kiem, POPS Worldwide, Absolute Software (Vietnam) Ltd, Techbase Vietnam, NFQ Asia, Dr.JOY, Nexus Frontier Tech, VNG Corporation, Haravan, Restaff, and Sun* Inc. The ranking was voted by over 13,000 IT employees, basing on five criteria, namely (i) salary and bonus, (ii) good boss, (iii) personal development opportunities, (iv) company culture, and (v) office and workplace. (VnExpress, CafeBiz Mar 20)

Recruitment for Australia Awards Scholarship 2021 in Vietnam Begins

Australia Awards Scholarships (AAS) 2021 in Vietnam, which are run by the Australian government, has begun recruitment and will end the selection on April 30. Besides, the scholarships will prioritize majors about education (education management, vocational training management), healthcare (including post-COVID-19 recovery), innovation (commercialization,





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technology transfer), and others. (Thanh Nien, Dan Tri Mar 18)

TikTok Joins Hands in Career Path Guidance for Students in Vietnam

Social media TikTok has announced its campaign #TikTokHuongNghiep of career path guidance for future high school graduates. The campaign is running on March 10-26. Users will upload short of at least 15 seconds to share their experiences, knowledge, and skills about their working sectors or studying majors. This campaign aims to provide young learners with better insights into their desired careers. (Dan Viet, Dien Tu Tieu Dung Mar 16)

Domestic News

After COVID-19, Vietnam Labour Market to Focus on IT-Related, FDI Sectors

As the economy has returned to normal after COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam's labour market will focus on sectors, such as information technology (IT), internet-related jobs, apparel, footwear, electronics, said Ms. Nguyen Thi Lan Huong, former director of the ministry-run Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA). She explained that those sectors follow global trends of foreign investment relocation or still develop strongly regardless of the pandemic. For labourers, who lost their jobs in the pandemic, such as transportation and tourism, Ms. Huong noted that their chances of getting jobs in the same sectors are low and they should acquire new skills and knowledge to stay in the labour market. Ms. Huong also reviewed that COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally changed the labour market. Jobs now have higher requirements and more working formats. Besides, jobs serving the domestic market increase while jobs serving the foreign market decrease. (Dan Tri Mar 22)

60% of Vietnamese Tourism Workers Out of Work/Furloughed in 2020: VNAT

Nearly 60% of labourers in Vietnam's tourism industry lost jobs or were laid off throughout 2020 due to the pummel of the COVID-19 pandemic, Head of the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) Nguyen Trung Khanh informed at a conference on promoting travel recovery, held in central Thua Thien-Hue province on March 20. Last year, the number of international travellers and domestic visitors plunged by 79.5% y/y and 34% y/y, respectively, Mr. Khanh said, adding that close to 90% of outbound tour operators shutdown. (CafeF, dulich.Tuoi Tre Mar 22)

20K Vietnamese People with Disabilities Receive Vocational Training Yearly

Around 20,000 people with disabilities (PWD) in Vietnam receive vocational training each year under the vocational training project for rural labourers, said the DVET, under the MoLISA. To date, around 210,000 PWDs have been provided with vocational training, 50,000 PWDs have been introduced to employment, and 20,000 received loans from the National Employment Fund. Mr. Nguyen Van Hoi, director of the Social Welfare Department, under the MoLISA said that the ministry is striving to have 90% of PWDs receiving social welfare assistance and







rehabilitation support in 2021-2025. (en.Vietnam Plus, Tin Tuc Mar 17)

Hanoi-based Firms' Insurance Arrears Hit VND4.99T as of End-Feb

Firms in Hanoi had a total insurance arrears of VND4.99 trillion as of the end of February, of which VND1.75 trillion required interest rates. The situation was attributed to firms' deliberation and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Nguoi Lao Dong Mar 18)

Quang Ninh Provides TVET to 27,029 People in Rural Areas in 10 Years

The northern province of Quang Ninh has provided TVET to 27,029 people in rural areas in the last ten years, per a scheme of the government. (Dan Sinh Mar 23)

Firm in Haiphong City Leaves Hundreds of Machines Deserted due to Lack of Labourers

M2 Factory Company Limited in northern Haiphong City has left hundreds of machines deserted since the Lunar New Year (Tet) holiday due to labourer shortage, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the firm lacks 400 labourers, or 80% of the total number, although it is approaching the peak time of orders in April and May. (Lao Dong Mar 19)

Ha Nam Creates Jobs for 4,975 Labourers in Q1

The northern province of Ha Nam is estimated to have created jobs for 4,975 people in the first quarter (Q1) of this year, equal to 28.4% of the year's target, according to the provincial DoLISA. (Dan Sinh Mar 23)

Firms in Hai Duong in Short of Labourers: Dept.

Many enterprises in northern Hai Duong province, Vietnam's current biggest COVID-19 hotspot, are lacking a vast number of labourers due to social distancing order and workers' hesitation amid the pandemic, the provincial DoLISA said. Before the Lunar New Year (Tet holiday), some 505 companies with 244,290 workers were under operation. However, by March 10, only 318 firms had been back in business with 115,478 employees returning to work, the department said. Many FDI enterprises are suffering a shortage of experts, executives, and skilled workers, whose job positions are unable to be replaced by Vietnamese people, several labour specialists stated. At present, over 40 firms in the province seek to employ around 23,460 labourers. Hai Duong now has 13,600 firms with 370,355 labourers, including 234 companies in industrial parks with 108,523 staff. (Dan Viet Mar 16)

MSH Starts Building VND600B Apparel Plant in Nam Dinh

Song Hong Garment Joint Stock Company (HOSE: MSH) on March 18 kicked off construction of Song Hong-Nghia Hung (Song Hong 10) apparel plant in Vietnam's northern province of Nam Dinh, with a total investment of VND600 billion (\$25.86 million). Upon completion in







November, the plant will create jobs for nearly 3,000 labourers and contribute VND5.5 trillion to MSH's total revenue per year. (BNews Mar 18)

Thanh Hoa to Boost Tourism Workforce

Thanh Hoa will boost investments in tourism workforce. In 2020, Thanh Hoa had 40,600 tourism labourers, with 79.5% as trained labourers. Thanh Hoa currently has 4 tourism universities and colleges. (Thanh Hoa Mar 19)

TVET Institutes in Quang Ngai Enrol 51,986 Learners in 2016-2020

TVET institutes in central Quang Ngai province enrolled 51,986 learners in 2016-2020, including 14,392 at the college and intermediate-school levels. Of them, 85% have got jobs after graduation. (Bao Quang Ngai Mar 23)

Thua Thien-Hue Aims to Provide TVET to 300-500 People with Disabilities in 2021

The central province of Thua Thien-Hue is aiming to provide TVET and create jobs for 300-500 people with disabilities in 2021, according to a plan on supporting such people, which was issued by the provincial People's Committee on March 23. (Dan Sinh Mar 23)

Firms in Danang Find It Hard to Recruit Labourers despite High Unemployment Rate

Firms in central Danang City have been facing difficulties in recruiting labourers since the Lunar New Year (Tet) holiday, despite the high unemployment rate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the latest job fair, nearly 300 firms registered to recruit 3,000 manual labourers, but only 200 labourers came to register for such positions. (VOV Mar 19)

TVET for Youth in Binh Dinh Yet to Solve Employment

Officials of Binh Dinh People's Committee met young people of the province on March 17. Binh Dinh DoLISA admitted that TVET in the province has yet to link with employments, leading to low attractiveness to young people. In 2020, Binh Dinh introduced jobs to 21,600 people, with 80% as youth, and provided employments to 21,545, including 4,568 young people. Binh Dinh DoLISA Director Nguyen My Quang vowed to review and update TVET per the market demand. (Dan Tri Mar 18)

Khanh Hoa to Hold Career Fair in Cam Ranh on Mar 28

The central province of Khanh Hoa will hold a career fair in Cam Ranh city on March 28, which is expected to attract seven firms with 200 vacancies. (Bao Khanh Hoa Mar 22)

Phu Yen Provides 121,000 Jobs in 2016-2020







Phu Yen People's Committee on March 17 reviewed job development in 2016-2020. The province provided 120,980 jobs in the period, or 108.81% of the target. People with new employments were 24,040, or 102.29% of the plan. The province's unemployment rate went down to below 2%. Until 2025, the target is to provide 25,000 employments annually. (Dan Sinh Mar 18)

Dak Lak to Boost Recruitment of Manual Labourers

After Tet Holiday, demand for manual labourers in Dak Lak province increased. Dak Lak job centre informed that in February, firms registered to recruit 1,100 labourers, including 812 manual labourers. Most popular sectors are industry-construction with 51.91%, services with 40.69%, and agro with 7.39%. (Dan Tri Mar 20)

TVET Schools in HCMC Announce Recruitments

For next academic year, Thu Duc College of Technology will recruit 3,530 for 24 college majors and 300 for 7 immediate majors. Ly Tu Trong College will recruit 8,505. Cao Thang Technical College will recruit 4,500. HCMC Technical and Economic College will recruit 2,300. (PLO Mar 22)

Cao Thang Technical College to Offer TVET to Pandemic-hit Labourers for Free

Cao Thang Technical College will offer zero-charge TVET to labourers losing jobs or having working hours reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The prioritized groups are female labourers, people with disabilities, and people of ethnic minorities. They will join TVET from April 1 to June 30. (Nguoi Lao Dong Mar 18)

Firms in Binh Duong in Need of 95K Labourers, Facing Hitches in Recruitment

Firms in the southern province of Binh Duong are in need of recruiting 95,000 labourers. They have strived to recruit by many methods, but recruitment has remained difficult. (<u>Dan Sinh</u> Mar 23)

Firms in Dong Nai Able to Recruit Thousands of Labourers after Scarcity

Firms in southern Dong Nai province have currently been able to recruit thousands of labourers thanks to their good allowances and benefits, following the scarcity in early 2021. Changshin Vina Company said that there have been tens or even hundreds of labourers submitting their application forms every day. The firm has recruit 1,500 labourers, versus a demand of 5,000 for the whole year 2021. The existing number of labourers has met the firm's demand. Similarly, Pousung Vina Company has recruited nearly 1,000 employees. Taekwang Vina Company needs 8,000 labourers for the whole year 2021 and 3,000 for the current time. In the first weeks of March, the firm recruited 1,000 labourers and expects to raise the figure to 3,000 by end-March. (Lao Dong Mar 23)