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Vietnam TVET Bulletin

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Vietnam Vocational Training Directorate Insists on More Certificates for Teachers

Regarding the issue that all 306 teachers of Can Tho Technical Economic College did not fulfil the requirement of teaching certificates, the DVET affirmed that those teachers have to gain additional certificate on teaching skills. The DVET said that the problems also happen with many other vocational training teachers. The DVET added that teachers would have to take tests to gain the certificates at units licensed by the DVET. The DVET added that some exceptions should be made for outstanding teachers and teachers with certificates of their labour skills or college graduation. (Tuoi Tre May 31)

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Vietnam Experts Disagree with Draft List of Subjects for TVET Learners

Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) has announced the draft circular on high school subjects for TVET learners, however, many TVET experts disagree with the draft list for the lack of foreign language subject. The list is for TVET learners, who are secondary school graduates, and aims to facilitate the issuance of certificates of completing high schools to TVET learners. The subjects include Math, Literature, and two out of five from Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, and Geography. Commenting on the lack of foreign language, a head of a TVET school said that learning four subjects does not qualify TVET learners to join the high school graduation exam, which is a key to advance their learning careers. Besides, experts said that foreign language (especially English) is becoming more and more important, not only for examinations but also for self-learning skills and employments. Nevertheless, some experts said that foreign language may be added to TVET courses not as a high school subject. (Tuoi Tre May 19)

Vietnam to Ensure Vocational Learners' Paths to Advanced Learning: Gov't

The Prime Minister has issued a directive on pushing learning society in 2021-2030, including terms of facilitating TVET learners to advance to further levels. The MoLISA is ordered to cooperate with the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) in updating rules of general education within TVET units, in order to facilitate further learning paths of TVET learners. The MoLISA is also tasked with helping learners by improving open and flexible learning methods, distance learning, self-learning, especially for people with disabilities, domestic workers, and elder people. The ministry is also requested to push training and re-training for labourers, digitalization, and others. Besides, the directive has guidelines for the MoET, the Ministry of Finance, People's Committees of provinces and cities, and others. (DVET, Bao Chinh Phu, Lao Dong, GDNN, VietnamNet, Bao Dan Sinh May 26)



Vietnam Always Strives to Improve Labourers' Rights: Foreign Ministry

Vietnam makes every effort to ensure workers' rights as developing human resources is one of its strategic breakthroughs in socioeconomic development, Spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said at the MoFA's regular press conference on May 27. Ms. Hang answered questions about the recently signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Vietnam and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Per this guideline, Vietnam has joined and effectively implemented many international cooperation agreements and programs on labour and human resources development, Ms. Hang added. (Dan Tri, Bao Chinh Phu, Lao Dong, VOVworld, MoFA May 28)

Vietnam Lends VND29.8T to Employment Funds as of Oct-2021

Vietnam's national fund for employment loaned VND29.8 trillion (\$1.28 billion) as of October 31, 2020, mostly for female labourers, rural workers, needy people, and others, according to a working session on May 27 of the Department of Employment, under the MoLISA. Reviewing the achievements in 2020, the department said that Vietnam solved employment for 1.27 million people. In urban areas, the unemployment rate was 3.61%, the rate of trained labourers was 64.5%, and the rate of labourers with certificates was 24.5%. The unemployment insurance sector has also helped ease COVID-19 impacts, by introducing 64,816 people to jobs and 8,637 people to vocational training courses, and indemnifying 267,282 people, in the first five months of this year. For the future, Minister Dao Ngoc Dung asked the department to develop the workforce, improve access to services for needy people, utilize the golden population, and others. (MoLISA, Bao Dan Sinh, Thanh Tra, Lao Dong Xa Hoi, Bizlive May 27)

MoLISA Asks Localities to Survey Minimum Wage Implementation

The MoLISA has asked People's Committees in cities and provinces to check the implementation of the minimum zonal wages. The MoLISA asked localities to check difficulties in the implementation, amid problems from COVID-19 pandemic. The MoLISA also asked relevant agencies to check the implementation in some areas, which will be subject to different formula per the National Assembly's resolution on geographical changes in 2022. (Dan Tri, VnEconomy, Kinh Te Do Thi May 26)

MoLISA Suggests Assistance of VND945B for Quarantined Labourers

The MoLISA suggested a package of VND945 billion (\$40.56 million) to assist 300,000 labourers, who had/have to quarantine due to COVID-19 pandemic. The MoLISA is checking draft conditions, including the ratio of COVID-19 patients to the population of the areas, social insurance coverage and premium payment, and others. The support is suggested at 75% of the wage per social insurance formula, or about VND175,000 per day. (VnEconomy, Hai Quan, Dan Tri May 30)



Vietnam Aims to Ensure Production and COVID-19 Fight at IPs Simultaneously

Amid the 4th COVID-19 outbreak, Vietnam is determined to ensure production and COVID-19 fight simultaneously. Vietnam currently has 369 industrial parks with 3.8 million workers and 700 industrial clusters with 600,000 labourers. (Nhan Dan, Dan Sinh May 26)

Dan Sinh Ignores Suggestion of MoET Managing Colleges

Dan Sinh newswire disagreed with the suggestions of the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) managing colleges. It gave reasons of history development of TVET, under MoLISA, then under government, and then under the former MoET. It said that TVET development under the MoET era was weak. It added that TVET growth under MoLISA was strong. (Dan Sinh, Dan Sinh May 27)

Business Sector and Labour Market

Foreign Cooperation

The 3rd Workshop "Using Digital Tools in TVET" at LILAMA 2: Online Certificates Verified on Atingi

As a prompt reaction to the 4th Covid-19 outbreak in Vietnam, the third workshop in using digital tools in TVET for the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and the Faculty of International Electronic Engineering was conducted on May 28 and 29 by Dr. Christian Hoffmann - GIZ's Digital Ambassador. The workshop was strictly compliant to 5-K hygiene principles of the Vietnam's Ministry of Health, whereas all participants must wear a mask during the workshop and sanitize their hands before entering the computer lab room. The course was launched on Atingi, a digital learning platform of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). For the first time, teachers were able to receive certificates right after they fulfilled the course's requirements. The online certificates issued by Atingi are verifiable with an automatically generated code for individually successful participation. The teachers had a great opportunity to experience a course on Atingi from a user's perspective to see how training contents could be delivered with interactive exercises in which gamification elements were applied to encourage learners' participation. Along with computer-based session, in the inclass exciting "TV battle", teachers were divided into two teams, each team chose a leader to have arguments of the advantages and disadvantages of traditional learning and online learning. This activity clarified to which extent both types could be used in TVET. The self-learning session on Atingi was about "flipped classroom" - a new pedagogical methodology -that could improve students' outcomes by letting them read the theoretical materials at home and do practical work in class. The teachers, divided into six groups, worked through the provided materials on Atingi, presented about the free online tools to create interactive questionnaire, quizzes (e.g. Mentimeter, Poll Everywhere, Slido) and online conference (e.g. Google Hangout Meet, Skype, Zoom). This activity demonstrated how "flipped classroom" could be applied to enhance blended and online learning. As part of the training, Mr. Vo Van Long, Vice Head of Training Department, presented improved functionalities of the current e-learning system of





LILAMA 2 in which teachers could upload teaching materials and assign homework. Meanwhile, Ms. Pham Thi Bay, an experienced teacher of Faculty of Mechatronics – Information Technology – Telecommunication, presented about Google Classroom and the importance of sharing online materials between teaching staff, since this has now been the most widely used supporting learning application of LILAMA 2 teachers during the pandemic. Ms. Nguyen Thi Dong, a teacher of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, shared her thoughts about the course: "I really enjoyed the course on Atingi, especially the interactive exercises. The user interface of this platform is outstanding and easy to navigate. Regarding e-pedagogy, I will also try to apply the flipped classroom techniques to my upcoming classes." This activity was held within the component "Supporting High-Quality TVET Institutes" as part of the Vietnamese-German "Programme Reform of TVET in Viet Nam". The programme is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implemented by GIZ together with the MoLISA. (TVET May 29)

Further Training Course on Advanced KNX for Teachers at VCMI

From May 19 to May 21, the further training course to instruct 8 teachers and candidates who will take part in the selection for the World Skill competition 2022 on advanced KNX was conducted by an experienced trainer in the field – Mr Duong Huu Phuoc – at the College of Machinery and Irrigation (VCMI). The teachers who participated in this training course directly deliver the training for the German standard oriented occupation "Electronics Technician for Energy and Building Technology" at the College. During this training, the participants practiced using and problem-solving KNX equipment, including: program and link the DALI Controller with the Interface board, program the weather station and connect it with the blind and shutter, program and link the Intelligent Lighting management, EIB monitoring and heating control system. Besides, participants were also instructed to design the system with their own ideas. This sample project will be used in the above-mentioned new occupation. Mr. Nguyen Tuan Vu, a teacher of the Electric – Electronics Faculty, shared his opinion: "I have improved my practical skills in KNX system, especially in DALI Controller with the Interface Board and wireless system which are new to my knowledge of KNX. We are now able to pass on our hands-on experience to the trainees of the new occupation Electronics Technician for Energy and Building Technology that have been piloted according to German standards at VCMI together with other partner enterprises in this school year". This training course was held within the component "Supporting High-Quality TVET Institutes" as part of the Vietnamese – German "Programme Reform of TVET in Viet Nam". The programme is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implemented by GIZ together with the MoLISA. (TVET May 21)

Vietnam Gets \$4B Remittances from Its Laborers Abroad Annually

Vietnamese workers are estimated to send at least \$4 billion worth of remittances annually back their homeland and the figure may drop due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The figure is forecast to drop because of the fall in the number of laborers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Vietnam Association of Manpower Supply (VAMAS)'s latest data showed that Vietnam sent 10,333 laborers to Taiwan and 18,178 workers to Japan in the first quarter of





this year. Vietnam has set a target of sending about 500,000 laborers abroad by 2025. (<u>CafeF</u>, <u>VietnamNet</u> Jun 1)

Vietnam Seeks to Promote Trade, Labour, Citizen Protection Cooperation with Israel

Vietnam has sought to foster cooperation on trade, labour, and citizen protection with Israel, according to a meeting of Vietnamese Ambassador to Israel Do Minh Hung with Israeli authorities earlier this week. During the talks, Ambassador Hung discussed with Israeli Director of Consular Affairs Eyal Siso and Israeli Director of Asia-Pacific Department Gilad Cohen on ways to beef up the bilateral relations, notably a free trade agreement between Vietnam and Israel (VIFTA), a labour agreement, and a citizen protection agreement. (Bao Quoc Te May 27)

Top Diplomats of Vietnam, Germany Seek to Boost Cooperation

Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs Bui Thanh Son and his German counterpart Heiko Maas discussed measures to further develop the ten-year strategic partnership between the two countries during a phone talk on May 25. The two sides agreed on some measures to promote bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, science, technology, renewable energy, TVET, and health. (Lao Dong, Nhan Dan, CAND, Bao Chinh Phu May 25)

FDI Inflows to IPs, EZs in Vietnam Up 10.3% y/y to \$6.02B FDI in Jan-May: MPI

Industrial parks (Ips) and economic zones (EZs) in Vietnam attracted 291 foreign-invested projects with a total new and additional registered capital of \$6.02 billion in the first five months of this year, up 10.3% year-on-year, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) said. As of May, Vietnam has set up 394 IPs, 286 of which are operational on a total natural land area of 86,000 hectares and a total industrial land area of 57,300 hectares. Besides, 108 are being built on a total natural land area of 35,900 hectares and a total industrial land area of 23,600 hectares. The occupancy rate reached 71.8% at operating industrial parks. Operating IPs have employed 3.78 million labourers directly. (MPI May 27)

Samsung Vietnam Takes \$600M Hit from 4th COVID-19 Wave: Ambassador

Over the past three weeks, 3 million products of Samsung Vietnam have been affected by the fourth COVID-19 wave in the host country, costing the firm \$600 million, said South Korean Ambassador Park Noh-wan at a meeting with leaders of northern Thai Nguyen province. The talks took place late last week as component suppliers to the Thai Nguyen plant in Bac Ninh and Bac Giang were on hiatus. In reply, Secretary of the provincial Party Committee Nguyen Thanh Hai welcomed proposals of the ambassador, wishing for South Korean enterprises' cooperation in compliance with anti-COVID-19 regulations. (Dan Tri, Thai Nguyen May 28)

COVID-19 Flare-up Causes Setbacks to Production of Samsung Vietnam: Exec.

The COVID-19 resurgence in northern Vietnam has landed the production and business of





Samsung Vietnam in considerable troubles, a representative for the firm has said. The representative gave the statement in the wake of complex virus development in two provinces of Bac Ninh and Bac Giang, which house plants of Samsung Electronics Vietnam (SEV) and its suppliers, resulting in the increasing number of labourers under self-quarantine and lockdown or temporary closure of some industrial parks, the executive said. (Zing May 26)

15K Labourers of Samsung Vietnam Begin to Get Vaccinated on Jun 1

15,000 labourers of Samsung Vietnam plants in COVID-19-hit northern Bac Ninh province have started to get vaccinated against coronavirus on June 1 morning. They will have been inoculated with AstraZeneca vaccine, and the vaccination will be completed within three days. Afterwards, the vaccinated workers will stay at their workplace in Yen Phong industrial park to maintain production. (Zing Jun 1)

Vietnam Bamboo Airways Recruits Senior Staff for its Representative Office in U.S.

Bamboo Airways (OTC: BAV) is employing a representative and staff for other senior roles for its representative office in the U.S., a move to prepare for the opening of direct flights to the U.S. (VietnamBiz, Vietnam Finance, BNews, VnExpress May 30)

84 Unlicensed Chinese Workers Found at Wind Power Project in Vietnam Ca Mau

A working group from Ca Mau People's Committee has recently detected 84 unlicensed Chinese labourers at Vien An wind power project in Ngoc Hien district. The unauthorized Chinese labourers, comprising 26 experts and 58 technical workers, were guaranteed by Vien An Energy One Member Company Limited, the project's investor. These workers were found with full passports, legal permits to the sea border area, and certificates by quarantine facilities, but no work permits. (Thanh Nien, Giao Thong, Lao Dong May 27)

An Giang Strives to Send at Least 1.5K Labourers Abroad in 2021-2025

Southern province of An Giang targets to send at least 1,500 labourers abroad in 2021-2025. To realize the goal, the province spends over VND164 billion (\$7.1 million) on supporting workers to go abroad, of which VND58 billion comes from the state budget and the remaining is extracted from the provincial budget. (Nguoi Lao Dong May 26)

Domestic News

Localities Adjust Plan of High school Entrance Exam due to COVID-19

Many localities have adjusted the timetable of the entrance examination to high school in the 2021-2022 school year, due to the complicated development of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, seven localities namely Ho Chi Minh City, Bac Ninh, Bac Giang, Hai Duong, Hung Yen, Dien Bien, and Soc Trang decided to temporarily postpone the exam due to the pandemic.





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The planned schedules in these localities started from early June to June 10. To date, they have not announced alternative exam schedules. Meanwhile, some other localities such as Danang City, Nam Dinh, and Thai Binh adjusted their plan to ensure the safety of students and teachers. Besides, Haiphong City and Long An province still keep the plan for the entrance exam on June 7-9 and June 8-9, respectively. For Hanoi capital city, Vice Chairman of municipal People's Committee Chu Xuan Dung stated that the exam will still be held on June 10-11 as planned if the COVID-19 epidemic situation in the city is under control as now and not likely to get worse. (VTV, Bao Dan Sinh, Dan Tri, Bao Chinh Phu May 31)

FDI Firms in Thanh Hoa Employ 153,242 People

35 FDI firms in Thanh Hoa province have employed 153,242 labourers, with average monthly income of VND6.19 million per head. (<u>Thanh Hoa</u> May 26)

Only 21.79% of High School Exam Takers Register for Graduation

Vietnamese experts have given mixed viewpoints on the career orientation of students, after the country recorded 222,503 students only registering for graduation from high school, accounting for 21.79%, out of more than one million candidates registered for the exam in total. Vietnamese students had a more realistic view of career orientation, and they may gain more career choices instead of choosing to enter higher education to get jobs, they noted. However, they claimed that the vocational schools and colleges still struggled to enroll students despite getting a high rate of candidates registering for graduation from high school. Regarding the issue, Doctor Hoang Ngoc Vinh, former director of the Professional Education Department, under the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), affirmed that vocational education in Vietnam failed to achieve the goals over the past 20 years. He said that Vietnam must re-plan educational institutions and assess the number of students graduating from secondary and high schools or dropping out of secondary schools to have a reasonable solution on state management and capacity student assessment system, then making appropriate recommendations. (Tien Phong May 31)

Major Firms in Vietnam Boost Recruitment Regardless of COVID-19: Report

Regardless of COVID-19 pandemic, major firms and startups with financial powers in Vietnam, especially the ones in sectors of information technology (IT) and bancassurance, have high recruitment demand, according to Recruitment Process Outsourcing (RPO) report by Navigos Group, among the most popular headhunters. Navigos said that RPO is a cheaper method to ensure the staff and it also fit the trend of digitalization. Besides, the report noted some trends, including firms focusing on employer branding to boost recruitment, startups competing to attract talents, Vietnamese people welcoming jobs with startups, and firms recruiting via digital platforms. (VTV, VnEconomy, Bao Dan Sinh, Navigos Group, Navigos Group May 27)

Vietnam Licenses 55,800 New Firms in Jan-May, up 15.4% y/y: GSO

Vietnam is estimated to have licensed nearly 55,800 new firms in January-May, up 15.4% y/y,





with their total registered capital of VND778.3 trillion (\$33.55 billion), up 39.5% y/y, the government-run General Statistics Office (GSO) said. The average registered capital of a new firm in the first five months of this year grew by 20.9% y/y to VND14 billion, the agency said, noting that the new firms used 412,400 labourers during the period, up 1.3% y/y. (<u>GSO</u> May)

Vietnam Diversifies COVID-19 Vaccine Supplies, Private Firms Agree to Help

As Vietnam seeks to diversify COVID-19 vaccine supplies and expand the vaccination to workers of industrial parks and businesses, the private sector, including foreign firms, agreed to help in search for vaccine supplies, fees for vaccine delivery, and vaccination for their own labourers. (Thanh Nien, Thanh Nien, Bao Chinh Phu, MoH May 29)

Assoc. of Vietnam Retailers Request Vaccination Priority for Retail Workforce

The Association of Vietnam Retailers (AVR) has once again sent a request to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Health prioritize COVID-19 vaccination for frontline retail labourers. (VnEconomy, VnEconomy May 26)

Travel Firms Grappling with 4th COVID-19 Wave

Vietnamese travel enterprises are reeling from the fourth COVID-19 wave that broke out in late April and has spread to 26 localities nationwide so far. A recent survey by the Vietnam Tourism Advisory Board (TAB) showed that 18% of tourism companies nationwide furloughed all of their employees; 48% laid off 50%-80% of workforce; and 75% offered financial support to the furloughed workers. (VnEconomy May 27)

Kosy Group Kicks off 2 Hydropower Projects Totalling \$99.14M

KOSY Joint Stock Company (HOSE: KOS) kicked off the construction of the Muong Tung and Pa Vay Su hydropower projects in northern Vietnam on May 21-22 with a combined capital of VND2.3 trillion (\$99.14 million). The two plants will produce about 275 million kWh to the national grid each year, as well as contribute tens of billions of VND to the local budgets and employ about 1,000 labourers. (Nang Luong Vietnam, Kinh Te Do Thi May 26)

COVID-19 Makes 45,000 Labourers in Hanoi Unemployed

The COVID-19 pandemic has so far hit over 1,300 firms in Hanoi and made 45,000 workers unemployed or underemployed so far. (<u>Dan Sinh</u> Jun 1)

4K Labourers of 9 Foreign Firms in Bac Giang IPs Back to Work

4,056 workers from nine foreign-invested companies in three industrial parks (IPs) in Bac Giang province returned to work on May 28-30 after more than ten days of breaks due to IP closure. The three IPs permitted to resume operation were Van Trung, Dinh Tram, and Quang Chau. Two







companies New Wing Interconnect Technology and Fuhong Precision Component, component suppliers to Taiwanese electronics contract manufacturer Foxconn, returned to operation on May 28. S-Connect BG Vina Co., Ltd reopened on May 29, while workers of Si Flex, Fuyu Precision Component Co., Ltd, Gigalane Vina Co., Ltd, Jeil Tech Vina, New Hope, and Vietnam Tequ Hope Animal Feed Co., Ltd got back to work on May 30. (CafeF, Zing, VTV, Lao Dong, Vietnam Finance, VietnamBiz, Bao Chinh Phu May 30)

IP Closure Costs Vietnam's COVID-19 Epicenter Bac Giang \$86.2M/Day

The temporary shutdown of four industrial parks (IPs) in northern Bac Giang province has blown off VND2 trillion (\$86.2 million) in industrial production per day and forced 140,000 employees, including over 60,000 non-native labourers, to take break, the provincial People's Committee said. The closure caused the province's industrial production index in May to plummet 40.9% m/m and 33% y/y, the committee said. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Ngoc, vice head of the provincial Industrial Zone Authority, said that there are 395 enterprises with 163,000 employees operating in Bac Giang industrial parks, contributing VND300 trillion to the provincial industrial production value and VND3 trillion to the state budget annually. (VietnamBiz, VnExpress, Zing, VnEconomy, Giao Duc Thoi Dai May 31)

Bac Ninh Province Allows Labourers to Stay at Workplaces

Bac Ninh province has permitted workers to stay at workplaces to maintain production in line with pandemic containment regulations. Standing Vice Chairman of the provincial People's Committee Vuong Quoc Tuan nodded his agreement at a meeting with executives of global businesses whose plants are situated in the province, including Samsung Electronics Vietnam, Canon, Foxconn, Goertek, and Diana, on May 26. All firms must conduct RT-PCR testing on their employees before taking them to the workplace. Labourers who test negative for coronavirus within 72 hours are eligible for the stay. Companies must regularly test 10% of their staff at the workplace. Labourers are encouraged to stay at the workplace for at least 15 days per phase, and those who return home will be categorized as F2 cases. (Dan Tri, BNews, Tien Phong May 26)

Vinh Phuc Province Dismisses Complaints of Harsh Anti-COVID-19 Methods

Vinh Phuc province is applying fair and justified anti-COVID-19 methods, especially on businesses inside and outside its industrial parks, to ensure safety for citizens, Chairman of Vinh Phuc People's Committee Le Duy Thanh replied to complaints about Vinh Phuc applying too strict methods. Currently, Vinh Phuc demands COVID-19 tests for all workers, restricts movements of workers and experts, asks workers not to return to their hometowns, and others. Some firms, especially foreign ones, complained that other localities do not apply such strong methods. They were particularly unhappy with requests of foreign experts staying in Vinh Phuc. Mr. Thanh added that Vinh Phuc is seeking COVID-19 vaccines; however, a large volume of vaccines is not available at the moment. He also noted that the province welcomes suggestions



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and would adjust the COVID-19 fight suitably. As of October 2020, industrial parks in Vinh Phuc employed 90,000 labourers. (<u>Thanh Nien</u>, <u>VietnamNet</u>, <u>Dan Tri</u> May 25)

Quang Binh Province Pushing anti-COVID-19 at IPs, EZs

Quang Binh province is pushing COVID-19 prevention at industrial parks (IPs) and economic zones (EZs). Quang Binh currently has 8 IPs and EZs with 66 firms and 4,491 labourers. (Quang Binh Jun 1)

Quang Nam Province Launches Quang Nam College

Quang Nam province on May 31 inaugurated Quang Nam College by merging six colleges into one. Associate Professor-Doctor Vu Thi Phuong Anh is appointed headmaster of the college. (Thanh Nien, Dan Tri, Quang Nam May 31)

HCMC Holds Career Orientation Event on May 28

Ho Chi Minh City's Vocational Training Association on May 28 hosted a career orientation event. Mr. Tran Anh Tuan, vice chairman of the association, said that most secondary school graduates choose to join high schools. However, only 70% of them are capable of entering public schools while the remaining have to study at private schools or international schools with high tuition fees. He suggested students with weak economic situation or capability join TVET at colleges or 9+ model at colleges. With 9+ model, students can get both high school graduation certificates and TVET certificates after 3.5-four years. (Dan Tri May 29)

HCMC Aims to Train/Retrain Labourers Affected by COVID-19

Ho Chi Minh City plans to help labourers, who became unemployed due to COVID-19, by training/retraining them with new jobs, said Director Le Minh Tan of HCMC DoLISA. Mr. Tan listed other methods of urging firms to reduce workloads of each labourer to keep the employment rate, providing cash to the unemployed, hosting job fairs to connect labourers to suitable jobs, and others. He added that in 2020, HCMC provided VND612 billion (\$26.3 million) to help 500,000 labourers and 5,274 firms affected by COVID-19. In early 2021, HCMC recorded 50,000 people, who had to receive unemployment support. He also said that as COVID-19 resurges, the number of unemployed people has increased 15% y/y. (SGGP May 31)

HCMC Applies Lockdown to Fight COVID-19

HCMC begin lockdown to fight COVID-19 on May 31. However, labour-related rules are vague. Go Vap district asked labourers to take temporary break, then eased travelling rules, and then asked firms to apply work from home. (<u>Thanh Nien</u>, <u>Tuoi Tre</u>, <u>Tuoi Tre</u> May)

Bac Lieu Province Increases Checks into Firms Using Foreign Labourers





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Southern Bac Lieu province has tightened checks into firms using foreign labourers amid the complicated developments of COVID-19. On May 26-27, a delegation from the provincial MoLISA checked five firms, mostly invested by Taiwan, Thailand, and China, and relatively found no violations. (Lao Dong May 27)

60 Firms in Vinh Long Using 355 Foreign Labourers

Sixty firms in southern Vinh Long province are currently employing 355 foreign labourers. Since early 2021, the province has issued 121 licenses for foreign labourers. (Bao Vinh Long May 30)

Dong Thap Province Aims to Provide TVET to 80% of People with Disabilities by 2030

Southern Dong Thap province is targeting to provide TVET to 80% of people with disabilities by 2030, according to a plan freshly issued by the provincial People's Committee. (Dan Sinh May 28)