**Vietnam TVET Bulletin**

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MoLISA Sets Tasks for 2022

On January 12, the MoLISA conducted a conference on tasks in 2022. One task is to improve TVET, regular training, retraining; enhance the standardization of skilled labourers; and boosting learning opportunities; in order to fulfil the labour demand of the market amid the Industry 4.0, increase the labour productivity, and raise the economy’s competitiveness. (MoLISA Jan 12)

MoLISA Suggests Higher Overtime Limit for All Sectors

The MoLISA has suggested that all sectors can apply the overtime limit of 72 hours a month and 200 hours-300 hours a year. Currently, per Labour Code 2019, the overtime work limit is 12 hours a day, 40 hours a month, and 200 hours a year. The limit is 300 hours a year for some sectors only, including apparel, footwear, farm produce processing, electronics, electricity, telecommunications, oil refinery, water supply and sewage, and others. The MoLISA proposed such a policy can begin from end-2022. (VnExpress, NDH, Thanh Nien, VnEconomy Jan 11)

TVET Schools Should Have Better Autonomy

TVET colleges are facing many problems in implementing their autonomy per Law on TVET 2014. Mr. Dong Van Ngoc, dean of Hanoi College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, said schools need higher autonomy in opening (new) courses and recruitment, per the market demand. Mr. Pham Van Tan, dean of Hanoi Medical College, said the autonomy should be about human resources, not finance. He added that many schools are facing lacklustre recruitment, hence their finance are not stable and the autonomy are limited. (Giao Duc Thoi Dai Jan 16)

Vietnam National Assembly Standing Committee Opens 7th Meeting on Jan 18

The Standing Committee of Vietnam’s 15th National Assembly, the country’s highest legislative body, is conducting its seventh meeting on January 18-19, focusing on law-building and investment. For law building, the meeting will discuss draft amendments to the Law on Emulation and Commendation, draft mechanism of employments and vocational training for prisoners outside prisons, satires of the people’s jury. (CAND, Quoc Hoi, Tin Tuc, Vietnam Plus, VOV, VTV Jan 18)

Vietnam Logs 105 Labour Strikes in 2021: Official

Vietnam recorded 105 labour strikes in 2021, which declined by 20 cases y/y, said Mr. Tran Thanh Hai, vice chairman of the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) on January
11. The stoppages mainly occurred before and after the 2021 Lunar New Year (Tet) holiday over pay disputes, he added. (Dan Tri, Thanh Nien, Tin Tuc Jan 11)

**Vietnam’s Unemployment May Stand at 1.3M in 2022: ILO**

Around 1.3 million people in Vietnam are forecast to be unemployed in 2022, compared to 1.2 million in 2021, according to the latest report released by the International Labour Organization (ILO). By 2023, the number of jobless people is projected at 1.2 million, surpassing the 2019 pre-pandemic level by 100,000, said the report. In 2021, Vietnam logged 1.4 million unemployed people of working age, which rose by 203,700 y/y, according to the General Statistic Office. (Tuoi Tre, PLO Jan 18)

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**Business Sector and Labour Market**

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**Foreign Cooperation**

**Vietnam, ILO May Continue Decent Work Country Programs in 2022**

Vietnam may approve and implement the Decent Work Country Programs (DWCP) 2022-2026, a cooperation program between the country and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in late first quarter (Q1) or early Q2 in 2022. This would become the fourth DWCP between Vietnam and the ILO. The program aims to provide decent and efficient employments to both male and female workers, in a free, fair, and secured working environment. (Bao Dan Sinh Jan 14)

**Vietnam, Israel May Sign FTA in 2022: Diplomat**

Vietnam and Israel will likely sign a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) this year, said Mr. Nadav Eshcar, ambassador of Israel to Vietnam. Regarding a labour agreement on sending Vietnamese labourers to Israel in the agriculture sector, the diplomat said that it is under negotiation to ensure labour rights. (BNews Jan 18)

**Singapore Accepts Vietnamese Workers under Work Permit Program till Aug**

Singapore has been receiving Vietnamese workers under its Work Permit, or work visa program, on a one-year trial basis until August 2022, according to the Department of Overseas Labour Management (DoLAB), under the MoLISA. Vietnamese workers employed under this program mainly work in construction, maritime, and processing industries. A construction labourer is paid between SGD768 and SGD840 ($570-$623) per month and provided with free accommodation, said the Vietnamese Embassy in Singapore. Earlier, Singapore only allowed skilled Vietnamese workers in under its Employment Pass and S Pass programs. In 2021, Vietnam sent 713 workers to Singapore, according to the DoLAB. (VnEconomy Jan 12)
Nguyen Xuan Thang to Visit Germany in May

Director Nguyen Xuan Thang of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC)’s Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMA), also a Politburo member, will visit Germany in May. HCMA Vice Director Duong Trung Y and Mr. Axel Blaschke, resident representative of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Vietnam Office, had a meeting last week to discuss the preparation. Besides, Mr. Y proposed the FES and the HCMA cooperate to conduct a conference on the role of the labour class in the Industry 4.0 and experiences of the two nations. Both sides also discussed potential cooperation in 2023-2025. (HCMA Jan 15)

Hong Kong Firm Adds $400M to Electronics Plant in Nghe An

Hong Kong-based Goertek Technology Co., Limited has poured an additional $400 million in its electronics factory project at the WHA Industrial Zone 1-Nghe An in Nghe An. The project began on January 21, 2021, including two phases. The first phase will be put into use at the end of this year after the completion in June, creating 5,000 jobs for labourers, and the other will be done in mid-2023, offering more than 30,000 jobs. (Nguoi Dua Tin, Bao Nghe An, Phap Luat Plus, Nhan Dan Jan 12)

Firm Launches 1st Product of $365.6M Silicon Wafer Proj in Quang Ninh

Jinko Solar Vietnam Company Limited—an affiliate of China-headquartered JinkoSolar Holding Company Limited, held a ceremony in northern Quang Ninh province on January 10 to commence the production and launch the first product of its silicon wafer technology project, with a total investment of $365.6 million. Jinko Solar Vietnam’s silicon wafer project is expected to come into official operation in April and create jobs for 2,200 local labourers. (Nang Luong Sach Vietnam Jan 11)

Domestic News

2.25M People in Vietnam Graduate from Vocational Training in 2021

As many as 2.25 million vocational training learners in Vietnam graduated in 2021, said the DVET, under the MoLISA, at a recent reviewing conference. The figure included 501,500 people graduating from colleges and intermediate level courses and 1.75 million others graduating from beginner-level courses and other courses. In 2021, after streamlining many vocational training schools, the sector had 1,877 units, including 409 colleges, 438 intermediate schools, and 1,030 centres. The number of public units was 1,184, down 4% y/y, representing 63% of the total. The DVET noted other achievements, including the approval of the vocational training development program in 2021-2030, with a vision to 2045; digitalization; administrative reform; training per businesses’ demand; and others. (Bao Dan Sinh, TVET Jan 17)

Many Vocational Training Units in Vietnam Still Weak: Minister
Vietnam’s vocational training sector is still weak, regardless of various recent achievements, said Minister of Labour, War Invalids, and Social Affairs Dao Ngoc Dung, at a conference of previewing tasks of the sector in 2022. Mr. Dung noted that only a few high-quality vocational training schools are innovating their training, while the qualities of other schools remain low. He added that such low qualities forced some major companies to withdraw their investments in Vietnam. For 2022, Mr. Dung suggested the sector focus on retraining labourers; let businesses take the lead in training; and train labourers per the market’s demand, not per the schools’ strengths. In 2021, Vietnam streamlined nine vocational training establishments, reducing the total number to 1,904. The sector recruited 1.9 million learners in 2021, or 85.14% of the plan. Notably, only 16.3% of high school graduates advanced to vocational training, versus the target of 40% in 2020. (Tuoi Tre Jan 18)

**Vietnam Provides VND74T COVID-19 Aid to Labourers in 2021**

Vietnam provided COVID-19 aid worth VND74.1 trillion ($3.18 billion) to 741,930 employers and 43.77 million employees in 2021. The support included VND35.99 trillion per the government’s Resolution 68 for 21.28 million employers and employees. The figure featured 15% of insurance indemnification, 78.5% of cash, and 6.4% of preferential loans. Per the government’s Resolution 116, the support included VND7.6 trillion of reduction in social insurance premium for 363,000 employers and 9.68 million employees. Besides, VND30.52 trillion of cash was delivered to 12.87 million labourers. (MoLISA Jan 12)

**Average Tet 2022 Bonuses in Vietnam Slip 3% y/y to VND6.17M**

The average bonuses for Lunar New Year (Tet) holiday 2022 in Vietnam reached VND6.17 million ($265), down 3% y/y, the MoLISA reported. The MoLISA noted that 62.7% of 42,159 surveyed firms would deliver Tet bonuses. The bonuses are between VND5.59 million for 100%-state-owned one-member limited companies, VND5.92 million for private businesses, and VND6.66 million for foreign-invested companies, all sliding from last year. Regarding the New Year 2022, 55.2% of 41.826 firms had bonuses, with the average figure at VND1.36 million, down 42% y/y. The report also showed that the average wage in 2021 was VND7.84 million per month per head, up 4% y/y. (An Ninh Thu Do, Lao Dong, Tin Tuc, VOV Jan 18)

**Military Businesses Account for 5% of Vietnam GDP**

Military businesses account for 5% of Vietnam’s gross domestic product (GDP), said Major General Nguyen Quoc Duyet, commander of the Hanoi Capital High Command, at the January 10 session of the National Assembly’s meeting. The Ministry of National Defence currently manages 83 100% state-owned enterprises and 20 joint stock companies. They account for 25% of the state budget collection from state-owned enterprises and employ 150,000 people. (QDND, VnExpress, Bien Phong Jan 10)

**Vietnam Drafting Fisheries Protection, Exploitation Planning by 2030**
Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is drafting a decision on fisheries resources protection and exploitation in 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050. The sector’s achievements contributed to ensuring the national food security, protecting the national sea-island sovereignty, creating 800,000 direct jobs and four million indirect jobs. (Cong Thuong Jan 17)

**Hanoi Supports 577,000 Labourers without Contracts since July 2021**

Hanoi City has supported 577,000 non-contracted labourers since July 2021, out of a total one million people receiving special support policies. In the period, the city has provided financial aid and loans worth VND6.827 trillion to 5.51 million underprivileged people hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. (Hanoi Moi Jan 17)

**Ha Nam Province Holds Dialogue with FDI Firms**

Authorities in Ha Nam held a dialogue with foreign direct investment (FDI) firms on January 13, in a bid to remove obstacles for them. At the event, representatives of the FDI firms suggested that Ha Nam authorities should simplify administrative procedures, ensure electricity supplies, improve the traffic within industrial parks, and support them in recruiting labourers and importing machines. (Nhan Dan Jan 13)

**Ninh Binh Aims to Create Jobs for over 19,400 Labourers in 2022**

Northern Ninh Binh province aims to create jobs for 19,400 labourers this year, including 1,400 people to be sent abroad and 17,500 to be provided with TVET. (Dan Tri Jan 18)

**Vinh Phuc Province Creates Jobs for Nearly 19K Labourers in 2021**

Northern Vinh Phuc province created jobs for 18,986 people in 2021, surpassing the target set by the provincial Party Committee at 16,000-17,000. The figure included 355 labourers sent abroad. (Dan Sinh Jan 16)

**Garco Inaugurates $6.47M Factory in Thai Binh**

Garment 10 Corporation - Joint Stock Company (UPCoM: M10) has inaugurated a five-floor factory at Hung Ha Garment Factory in Thai Binh with an investment of VND150 billion ($6.47 million). It is expected to create jobs for 2,000 labourers. (BNews, thabinhvt, Kinh Te Do Thi Jan 11)

**Thua Thien-Hue Province Creates Jobs for over 15,900 People in 2021**

Central Thua Thien-Hue province created jobs for 15,939 people in 2021, equal to 99.6% of the target. The province’s trained labour rate reached 66.8% as of end-2021. Local TVET institutes enrolled 14,400 learners last year. (Dan Sinh Jan 17)
Quang Ngai Province Creates Jobs for 7,219 Labourers in 2021

Central Quang Ngai province created jobs for 7,219 labourers last year, equal to 72% of the target. In 2021, the province sent 200 labourers abroad, equivalent to 67% of the target. (Dan Sinh Jan 14)

Phu Yen Province Seeks to Create Jobs for Labourers Hit by COVID-19 Pandemic

The employment service centre in central Phu Yen province has sought to connect with businesses inside and outside the locality to create jobs for labourers hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. A survey from the provincial DoLISA showed that 66,382 local labourers are seeking jobs. Of 41,800 labourers returning home from HCMC and southern provinces, 54% want to come back to their workplaces while 46% want to seek jobs in the province. (Tin Tuc Jan 17)

HCMC DoLISA Proposes Resuming In-person Learning at All Local TVET Institutes

HCMC’s DoLISA has proposed resuming face-to-face learning and teaching activities at all local TVET institutes from February 14, following a two-week pilot at five colleges and intermediate-level schools. (Thanh Nien Jan 12)

HCMC Vocational Training Assoc. Receives Student Admission Support Software

The HCMC Vocational Training Association on January 15 received the QR ACCESS software, which supports student admission and management, from Fclass Vietnam. The software, valued at VND400 million, was granted to the association following the signing for cooperation between both sides. (SGGP Jan 15)

Soc Trang Provides TVET to 13K People in 2021

Southern Soc Trang province provided TVET to 13,000 people in 2021, fulfilling 100% of the target, said Mr. Vo Thanh Quang, director of the provincial DoLISA. (Dan Sinh Jan 15)