Vietnam TVET Bulletin
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DVET Boosts Digital Transformation

The DVET, under the MoLISA, has boosted digital transformation to improve TVET and move towards digital ecosystem in TVET. Some notable achievements included a quality management system per TCVN ISO 9001:20, eGDNN operating system, TVET database software, and level-four online public services. (Dan Sinh Jan 22)

Vietnam Applies Heavier Fines against Employers for Labour Violations

The government has issued Decree 12/2022/ND-CP setting heavier fines against employers for labour violations. For non-disclosure of the formula for the productivity, wages, bonuses at the workplace; gender discrimination in setting wage formula; and others, the fines are between VND5 million ($214) and VND10 million, or double the rate per Decree 28/2020/ND-CP. Fines of VND20 million and VND40 million can be applied on violations against health, lives, prides, the dignity of employees, applications of non-regulated or non-agreed penalties, multiple fines for a single mistake, and others. The previous rate was between VND10 million and VND15 million. The decree became effective on January 17. (NLD, Nguoi Dua Tin, NLD 1, ANTT Jan 23)

Vietnam Sets Fines of up to VND75M for Mistreating House Helpers

The Vietnamese government has set a fine of up to VND75 million ($3,218) for mistreatment against house helpers, according to newly-issued Decree 12/2022/ND-CP, which became effective on January 17. Warnings are given to employers who do not issue labour contracts with house helpers or do not pay transportation cost for house helpers to return home upon expiration of the labour contracts. Fines of between VND10 million and VND15 million are given to employers who do not pay premiums of social insurance and healthcare insurance (for house helpers) or take possession of house helpers’ identity papers. Fines between VND50 million and VND75 million are given to employers who abuse, use force, conduct sexual harassment against house helpers. Besides, the decree stipulates fines against wrong employments of under-15 kids. (Bao Chinh Phu, Tuoi Tre, Thuong Hieu Cong Luan Jan 19)

Police, Vietnam Social Security to Enhance Anti-Crime Cooperation in Insurance

On January 21, the Ministry of Public Security and the Vietnam Social Security signed an agreement on cooperation in preventing and handling crimes related to social insurance, healthcare insurance, and unemployment insurance. In 2017-2021, both sides cooperated to check 6,000 employers and handled many violations of insurance abuse. (MPS, BHXH Jan 21)
Inconsistencies in COVID-19 Precautions Hurt Labourers in Vietnam: Official

Inconsistencies in COVID-19 precautions, especially the impulsive closure and reopening of street shops and restaurants, severely hurt labourers in Vietnam, especially freelancers and immigrant workers, said Mr. Vu Trong Binh, head of the Department of Employment, under the MoLISA. He noted that the consequences are worse for labourers without social insurance nor unemployment insurance. He gave examples of hairdressers, manicurists, restaurant servers, and others. For solutions, he suggested the authorities should have a better link between pandemic ratings and operation of restaurants. He recommended the authorities issue rules of COVID-19 precautions for safe operation, instead of suspending activities. (Tuoi Tre Jan 22)

● Business Sector and Labour Market ●

Foreign Cooperation

Aide et Action Releases Guides in Career Paths, TVET, Startup

The Aide et Action has recently released guides in career paths, TVET, and startup, per a program of improving livelihood and employment of young people of ethnic minorities, funded by the European Union. The announcement ceremony featured officials from the DVET, the MoLISA, DoLISAs, TVET centres, and the local authorities from Lao Cai and Hoa Binh provinces. (DDDN Jan 20)

Vietnam Seeks to Further Cooperate with Scandinavian Nations

On January 18, Vice Director Duong Trung Y of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC)’s Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMA), had a meeting with staff of embassies of Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark to Vietnam to discuss further cooperation between the nations. Mr. Y proposed the two sides boost the cooperation in institutions, especially administrative reform, digitalization, e-management; development of high-quality labour forces; and green and sustainable growth in the digital era and post-COVID-19 era. Both sides also agreed to push the cooperation in labour training, protection for labourers in the post-COVID-19 era, environment protection and the role of the private sector, and others. (HCMA Jan 18)

Vietnam Expects Taiwan to Receive Vietnamese Workers Again

Vietnam expects Taiwan to reopen its door to Vietnamese workers soon, and the two sides are in talks over the issue, said Spokeswoman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Le Thi Thu Hang in a press briefing on January 20. The diplomat made the statement in response to queries by the Taiwan-based Central News Agency, stressing that Taiwan is a critically important destination for Vietnamese workers. Taiwan has been closing its door to foreign workers since May 2021, and it has allowed only Thai and Indonesian workers in recently. Since Vietnam resumed regular flights with Taiwan in early January, the country has performed 17 flights repatriating 1,700
State Leader Welcomes Honorary Consul of Vietnam in Switzerland

The State leader appreciated enormous contributions to the Vietnam - Switzerland ties by Rosler, who is also former Vice Chancellor of Germany and a Vietnamese-origin person returning to attend the Homeland’s Spring program. He believed that Vietnam has huge opportunities to develop and the world has paid great attention to Vietnam due to its young population, with many being well-trained and having entrepreneurial spirit. To improve Vietnam’s young labourers, he suggested promoting technology transfer deals between Vietnam and Europe, especially in the health sector. (Dan Viet, Vietnam Plus English, VTV, Lao Dong, Bao Chinh Phu Jan 22)

French Agro Counsellor Shares Salt Development Experience with Vietnam

Ms. Marion Chaminade, Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs at the French Embassy in Vietnam, has shared France’s experience in developing the salt sector with the Southeast Asian country. Currently, over 14,000 households with over 33,600 labourers are joining salt production, mostly the elderly, women, and children. Up to 80.3% of salt production facilities are small-scaled with outdated equipment and technologies. (Nong Ng hiep, Cong Thuong Jan 22)

Vietnam Houses over 93K Foreign Workers

Vietnam logs more than 93,000 permitted overseas workers from 110 countries and territories, mostly from China, South Korea, and Japan, according to the MoLISA. In Hanoi, more than 10,000 foreigners were licensed and re-licensed to work there, making up 11% of the total foreign workers in the country, the DoLISA said. (VTV Jan 24)

Domestic News

Average Monthly Wage of Contracted Labourers Hikes 4% y/y to VND7.84M in 2021

The average monthly wage in Vietnam reached VND7.84 million ($336) in 2021, up 4% and 0.9% versus those in 2020 and 2019, respectively, according to a report of the MoLISA. The report featured data from 41,339 firms with 3.83 million labourers, or 15.9% of the total contracted workers in the country, across 60 localities. The figures were between VND9.13 million for state-run firms, VND8.26 million for foreign-invested companies, and VND7.5 million for private businesses. The MoLISA explained the hike, saying that the country still recorded positive economic growth in 2021, regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministry added that many firms applied the policy of raising wages yearly. The MoLISA also noted that the hike showed signs of recovery of the labour market. (ANTD, Lao Dong, VietnamNet, VTV Jan 24)
22% of Vietnamese Respondents to Quit after Tet if No Bonuses Given

A survey conducted by job search website vieclamtot.com showed that 22% of respondents would quit their jobs after the Lunar New Year (Tet) holiday if they were not given a Tet bonus and an extra wage. According to the survey, 64% of the polled unemployed still stayed in place where they used to do their previous jobs, and 20% job seekers are looking to return to cities. (NLD Jan 21)

Hanoi Targets to Introduce Jobs to 70% of Unemployed in 2026-2030

Hanoi aims to introduce jobs 70% of unemployed persons in 2026-2030 and achieve a rate of 20% of those who claim for jobless benefits getting vocational training. The city targets to provide training to 10% of people who join unemployment insurance during the period. In 2021, Hanoi supplied jobs to 179,648 workers, surpassing by 10% of the year’s plan. Its unemployment rate stood at 2.6%, up 0.27 percentage point y/y. (An Ninh Thu Do Jan 23)

10K Workers in Thai Nguyen Apply for Jobless Benefits in 2021, up 2.27% y/y

Nearly 10,000 workers in Thai Nguyen province filed for unemployment benefits in 2021, up 2.27% y/y. Of these, over 9,700 received nearly VND164 billion in unemployment benefits, and 2,251 others were offered new jobs after applying for jobless benefits. Five sectors that saw the highest jobless rate were processing and manufacturing (68.6%), education and training (7.62%), services (6.64%), construction (2.46%), and agro-forestry-fisheries (1.43%). (Lao Dong Jan 24)

Quang Tri Province Creates Jobs for over 11,130 Labourers in 2021

Central Quang Tri province created jobs for 11,134 labourers last year, including 8,556 within the province, 1,800 outside the locality, and 778 labourers sent abroad. In the year, local TVET institutes enrolled 8,837 learners. As of end-2021, the local trained labour rate hit 68.5%, TVET-equipped labour rate reached 48.5%, and certificates-equipped labour rate was 32%. (Dan Sinh Jan 21)

Quang Tri Province Supports over 34,300 Labourers Hit by COVID-19

Central Quang Tri province has supported over 34,300 labourers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with a total aid of VND18.7 billion. (Dan Tri Jan 22)

Danang City Aims for 80% of Youngsters Getting Career Orientations by 2030

Central Danang City is targeting that 80% of its youngsters will receive career orientations by 2030, according to a youth development program in 2021-2030 approved by the municipal People’s Committee. (Dan Sinh Jan 23)
HCMC to Provide Free TVET to Labourers at Local SMEs

Ho Chi Minh City will provide free TVET to workers at local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), per a policy approved by the municipal People’s Committee. Specifically, labourers joining elementary training courses or under-three-month courses will receive 100% of support for training costs, with a maximum aid of VND2 million/course. (Dan Sinh Jan 22)

Firms in Binh Duong Province Need 40K-50K Labourers in Early 2022

Firms based in southern Binh Duong province are in need of 40,000-50,000 labourers in early 2022 as they have recovered/expanded operation. (Lao Dong Jan 20)

NA Chairman Visits Workers in Binh Duong Province

NA Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue visited workers at Wanek Furniture Company Ltd. in VSIP industrial zone, Hoa Phu ward, Thu Dau Mot city, southern Binh Duong province on January 23. Wanek, with foreign investment, has built five processing plants in Binh Duong with over 8,500 labourers. On the occasion, Mr. Hue presented 50 gifts worth VND1 million each to underprivileged workers. (Thanh Nien Jan 24)

Deputy PM Le Minh Khai Visits Labourers in Binh Phuoc Province

Deputy Prime Minister Le Minh Khai visited labourers hit by COVID-19 and those with underprivileged circumstances in southern Binh Phuoc province on January 23. On the occasion, Deputy PM Khai presented 75 gifts to revolutionary contributors and pandemic-hit families, and 60 others to workers at Kim Tin MDF Joint Stock Company and New Apparel Far Eastern Company Limited. (Tuoi Tre Jan 23)

An Giang Eyes Creating Jobs for over 100K Returnee Workers in 2022

An Giang province aims to generate jobs for more than 100,000 workers returning from other localities in 2022, of whom 80%-90% could be provided with vocational training and preferential loans for domestic production. The province is seeking to send 10,000 labours to Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai province, and Binh Duong province after the Lunar New Year (Tet) holiday. (Dan Tri Jan 21)