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VCCI Proffers 6 Proposals in Support of Businesses, Workers ahead of Tough 2023

General Secretary of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) Tran Thi Lan Anh has made six proposals in aid of firms and workers to brace for a challenging 2023. First and foremost, VCCI stressed the importance of stabilizing the macro-economy, holding domestic demand stimulus programs, supporting trade promotion, and seeking and exploiting new markets/orders. It is necessary to tailor foreign direct investment (FDI) attraction strategy with priority for hi-tech-applied projects and oversee localities in FDI promotion and project approval. The VCCI official recommended implementing policies in support of workers and employers by financial and credit relief packages as well as social security policies, with priority for small and medium-sized enterprises. She suggested keeping training and retraining workers with flexible coordination between employers and vocational training institutions. VCCI recommended tailoring labour market policies in line with the practical context, introducing a public employment program and improving public employment services, prioritizing the development of labour market infrastructure, and connecting labour supply and demand. Last but not least, the chamber proposed effectively enforcing the Vietnam Labour Code 2019 and stepping up support for workers and businesses in forming a harmonious relationship. (VOV, Nhip Song Kinh Doanh Dec 18)

895,500 People in Vietnam File for One-Off Social Insurance Benefits in 2022

A whopping 895,500 people in Vietnam have filed for one-off social insurance benefits this year, up 3.7% y/y, Deputy General Director of the Vietnam Social Security Chu Manh Sinh said during a working session of the National Assembly Standing Committee in Hanoi on December 15. In 2016-2021, the country recorded four million people claimed one-off social insurance benefits, excluding staff of the Ministries of National Defence and Public Security, Mr. Sinh said, adding that the figure in the following year was 11.6% higher than the previous year during the period. The surge in claims for one-off social insurance benefits boils down to the favourable social insurance policy and the COVID-19 fallout that has hit local workers hard. (VnExpress, Quoc Hoi TV, Tuoi Tre Dec 15)

Business Sector and Labour Market

Foreign Cooperation

Further Training on Arduino Technology Programming for VCMI Teachers

Teachers from the Electrics – Electronics Faculty of the College of Machinery and Irrigation (VCMI) acquired basic knowledge and hands-on skills after attending a short training workshop
on Arduino technology from December 14-15. Trained by the GIZ’s Development Advisor Alexander Husenbeth, the training course provided participants with both theory and practice related to programming Arduino technology. As an open-source electronics platform based on easy-to-use hardware and software, Arduino targets anyone who wants to create interactive projects. It senses the environment by receiving inputs from many sensors, and affects its surroundings by controlling lights, motors, and other actuators. A total of 10 teachers were introduced about the Arduino ecosystem, including software, hardware and cloud applications. They also learned about programming system, data types, operators, and functions as well as using basic hardware and programming basics. They also worked in groups to apply basic skills for Arduino, including Blink, Debounce, PWM, InputSerialPrint. Besides, advanced functions of Arduino technology like Array, Interrupts, IoT functions and SD card, and integration of Arduino in classes were also incorporated into the workshop. Participants later started working on Arduino project in the project method of Inform, Plan, Implement, and Test. Mr. Vu Van Tuyen, Vice-dean of the Electrics – Electronics faculty, who was also the co-trainer for this course, shared his thoughts: “Arduino has been widely used in the electronics field, such as robotics, automation, or IoT control technology applicable to monitoring smart building. Prices of its modules are much cheaper than other equipment. Main Arduino-based modules, input and output modules available on the market can easily be connected to each other to create a specific application.” For participants of the course, he added that they could access a cutting-edge technology based on which to design an Arduino-based application, including programming a robot to navigate streets, clean houses, collect rubbish, or control the traffic lights. The teachers will then transmit this knowledge and skills to their students through relevant practical exercises using Arduino technology. This activity was held within the component “Supporting High-Quality TVET Institutes”, supported by the Programme “Reform of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Vietnam”- on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the DVET, under Vietnam’s MoLISA. (TVET Dec 20)

**Industry Advisory Boards Meeting 2022 at LILAMA 2**

On December 16, the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) Meeting for the two groups of occupations Mechanics and Electrics - Electronics took place at the International Technology College LILAMA 2 (LILAMA 2), Dong Nai province. Managers, Human resources, and in-company training of 13 partner companies, Rector board and teachers of LILAMA 2, GIZ’s experts and staff attended the meeting. During the meeting, representatives from partner companies gave feedback about the German standard oriented Cooperative Training programmes that have been implemented for the four occupations Mechatronics, Industrial Electronics, Metal Cutting and Construction Mechanics at LILAMA 2. Mr Dinh Truong Viet, Vice General Director of ISHISEI Vietnam, shared his positive thoughts about the cooperative training concept after five years of implementation with LILAMA 2: “Some students of the German standard oriented Cooperative Training classes who were employed at the company after graduation have now become our key staff. This brought great value to the company as they are professionally trained and highly committed to the company long-term strategic goals.” With the facilitation of the IAB’s Chairman – Dr. Le Quang Trung, Vice Rector of LILAMA 2, IAB’s members actively
engaged in discussion to give feedback on the cooperative training plan, selected training modules of four occupations were agreed by partner companies. Moreover, business representatives also shared practical opinions about the needs and expectations of cooperation to improve the efficiency of the upcoming IAB activities. Mr. Tran Van Khanh, Vice Director of QH Plus Industrial JSC, shared his feedback: “It is important to create a network of companies in the operation of IAB. The members need to frequently communicate and exchange information to improve cooperation, in order to maximize IAB’s effectiveness.” The meeting was closed with the admission of additional members from 9 new companies to the two Advisory Councils at LILAMA 2. The list of new advisory councils was agreed by all members. This activity was held within the component “Supporting High-Quality TVET Institutes”, supported by the Programme “Reform of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Vietnam” - on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the DVET, under Vietnam’s MoLISA. (TVET Dec 20)

**First Graduated Pilot Class Marks Successful Cooperation between LILAMA 2, Schaeffler Vietnam**

With the support under the framework of the Programme “Reform of TVET in Vietnam” (TVET Programme), from the end of 2020, the International Technology College LILAMA 2 (LILAMA 2) cooperated with Schaeffler Vietnam Co., Ltd to implement the German standard oriented Cooperative Training programme for Metal Cutting occupation. In the morning of December 19, the graduation ceremony of 18 students from K13 class, who were selected to participate in the training programme, took place with the participation of representatives from DoLISA, Dong Nai province; the Management Board of Schaeffler Vietnam, LILAMA 2’s Rector Board, officers and experts from the TVET Programme – GIZ, and all other relevant staff, trainers, teachers. Mr. Tham Nguyen Khoa – Plant Manager of Schaeffler Vietnam, gave his opening speech, proudly regarded Schaeffler Vietnam to become a success in applying the German standard oriented cooperative training concept to train high-quality human resource. During the last two years, with the connection from GIZ, Schaeffler Vietnam actively cooperated with LILAMA 2 in implementing the cooperative training programme for the Metal Cutting occupation, from the preparation phase such as selection of students, development of training programme with the college, to the implementation phase at the company and finally the evaluation phase which is conducted according to German standards. Student Nguyen Chi Cuong, the representative of Metal Cutting K13 class, shared his thoughts on behalf of the class: “We have received a lot of benefits from the cooperative training concept, which are not only knowledge and technical skills, but also career opportunities and future development orientation. After we graduate, we will come back to Schaeffler Vietnam with a new role, and we are ready to contribute for the company’s long-term development.” At the end of the ceremony, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thang, the General Director of Schaeffler Vietnam, confirmed that the company will continue to work closely with LILAMA 2 to train more classes of students, as well as share and multiply this concept in the future. This activity was supported by the Programme “Reform of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Vietnam” - on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implemented by
Workshop “Appraisal of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) and AP1 Exam Questions of German Standard Metal Cutting Training Programme”

Within the framework of the Vietnam – Germany Cooperation Programme “Reform of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Vietnam” (TVET-GIZ), in March 2021, Bac Ninh College of Industry and Vietnamese – German Technical College of Ha Tinh were disseminated the German standard Metal Cutting Training Programme by LILAMA 2 International Technology College. In conjunction with this dissemination activity, from August 1 to October 16, 2022, multipliers and core teachers of Metal Cutting occupation from Bac Ninh College of Industry and Vietnamese – German Technical College of Ha Tinh was supported by TVET-GIZ to compile TLM for this training programme from module 1-8. In order to appraisal TLM from module 1-8 and the AP1 exam questions of German standard Metal Cutting Training Programme, TVET-GIZ in cooperation with Bac Ninh College of Industry and Vietnamese – German Technical College of Ha Tinh organized the Workshop “Appraisal of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) and AP1 exam questions of German standard Metal Cutting Training Programme”. During the workshop, core teachers from 02 colleges exchanged and discussed intensively and professionally as well as stayed open to feedback and recommendations. After 2.5 days of the workshop, appraisal council agreed upon the AP1 exam questions (theory and practice) and summarized the feedback on content and template of TLM for module 1-8. The council summarized recommendations, and at the same time, adjusted the TLM for module 1-8, which planned to be finalized in January 2023. The final TLM will be published and disseminated to other partner colleges of TVET-GIZ in Quarter I, 2023. This activity is carried out within the framework of the Component “Support of High Quality TVET Institutes”, under the Vietnam-Germany Cooperation Programme “Reform of TVET in Vietnam”. The Programme “Reform of TVET in Vietnam” is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) together with the Vietnamese MoLISA.
management policy and smart agriculture for MARD officials first, then expanding cooperation in aquaculture technology, offshore fishing methods, and marine resource management. The Vietnamese official also called on Hiroshima University to deploy the pilot of one or two models of smart rural areas in Vietnam, which is the university’s strength. (Nong Nghiep Dec 16)

S.Korea Ranks First among Foreign Investors in Vietnam Haiphong with $9.7B

South Korean companies have to date invested $9.7 billion in 178 projects in Vietnam’s northern city of Haiphong, accounting for 39.6% of the city’s total pledged foreign direct investment (FDI) and 21% of the total FDI projects. Mr. Le Trung Kien, head of the Haiphong Economic Zone Authority (HEZA), said that South Korean firms in local EZs and IPs made revenue of $11.5 billion in the first ten months of this year. They contributed VND2.68 trillion ($111.66 million) to the city’s budget and created 40,940 jobs during the period. (Vietnam Plus, BNews Dec 15)

Vietnam Ministry, JICA Discuss Implementation of Joint Educational Projects

Vietnamese Minister of Education and Training Nguyen Kim Son met with Chief Representative Shimizu Akira of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Vietnam Office on December 14 to exchange the implementation of joint educational projects in Vietnam. At the meeting in Hanoi, both sides discussed existing difficulties and solutions to effectively carry out seven joint educational projects. Minister Son proposed the JICA pay more attention to the Vietnam Japan University and consider increasing the scholarships for doctorate training and the “Human Resources Development Scholarship” (JDS). He also informed that Vietnam’s Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) plans to visit Japan and attend the Conference of Rectors of Vietnamese and Japanese universities in Japan in 2023 on the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties. (Giao Duc Thoi Dai, Giao Duc Thoi Dai Dec 14)

Universities of Vietnam, S. Korea Sign MoU on Dual Degree Training Programs

The Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City (VNU-HCM) and South Korea’s Seoul National University (SNU) have recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote training and research cooperation. Per the pact, both sides will focus on developing dual-degree training programs and conducting the exchange of students of both universities for one or two semesters. Besides, the SNU will assist the VNUHCM in training doctorate-level degrees for lecturers and masters. In addition, both sides agreed to implement research cooperation and academic exchange activities. VNU-HCM leaders proposed the South Korean university develop a scholarship program for talented students of VNU-HCM and support the Vietnamese university to further connect with South Korean businesses in Vietnam. Both universities will hold a seminar with South Korean businesses in Vietnam in 2023, leaders said. (Tuoi Tre, Dan Viet, Khoa Hoc Phat Trien, Chinh Phu, Lao Dong Dec 12)

Vietnam Looks to Send More Workers to Canada
Vietnam desires to continue to send its workers to Canada under a bilateral agreement on labour cooperation signed in 2010, said Deputy Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs Nguyen Ba Hoan. Deputy Minister Hoan made his statement while receiving Mr. Jeremy Harrison, minister of Trade and Export Development and minister of Immigration and Career Training of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan in Hanoi on December 13. Recently, some Vietnamese businesses have been licensed to bring nearly 100 workers to Canada, Mr. Hoan said, proposing some measures for closer collaboration between the two countries as well as the ministry and Saskatchewan, especially in sending Vietnamese labourers to Canada. Minister Harrison, for his part, said that as Canada is in short of labourers, particularly in the construction and healthcare sectors, his nation aspires to resume the deployment of the labour deal between the two countries. He said that he has worked with the Canadian Embassy in Vietnam to seek to facilitate visa issuance for Vietnamese applicants qualified for work in Canada. (MoLISA, Lao Dong Xa Hoi Dec 13)

**Vietnam Recruits 45 Candidates for Work in Germany under “Hand in Hand for International Talents” Programme**

DoLAB, Federal Employment Agency (BA), and the German Chambers of Commerce in Vietnam (AHK) have announced a plan to recruit 45 graduates for work in Germany under the “Hand in Hand for International Talents” programme. This is part of a program on sending Vietnamese workers to Germany in 2022-2023, signed between MoLISA and BA. The candidates are required to major in IT, electronics, food processing techniques, and hospitality administration, and have at least two years of experience. Interviews of applicants will take place this month. (VnEconomy Dec 14)

**DoLAB Fines Firm for Violation Related to Sending Shipbuilding Workers to S.Korea**

DoLAB has imposed a VND60 million ($2,500) fine on ThanhDo IES.JSC for its violation related to sending people to South Korea to work in the shipbuilding sector with an E7-visa without approval of MoLISA. Earlier, DoLAB also fined four local firms for the same violation. (Vietnam Plus Dec 20)

**Domestic News**

**Vietnam Info-Coms Sector’s Revenue Hits $162.5B in 2022, up 12.7% y/y: MIC**

Vietnam’s information and communication sector is likely to have posted a revenue of VND3,900 trillion ($162.5 billion) in 2022, which was up 12.7% y/y, 1.5 times higher than this year’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate forecast, according to the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC). In 2022, Vietnam has had 70,000 digital enterprises, up 9.5% y/y, and 1.5 million workers in the info-coms industry, up 5% y/y. (VOV, Vietnam Plus, VOV World, NLD, VnEconomy, Dan Tri, Nha Dau Tu, Nhan Dan, VietTimes, Nong Nghiep Dec 18)
Vietnam Hanoi Forecasts Tet Bonuses to Drop as Orders Fall

The DoLISA in Vietnam’s capital city of Hanoi has predicted that the Lunar New Year (Tet) bonuses for workers this year will be lower than in 2022, citing a sharp decline in orders. Workers in textiles, footwear, electronics, and wood processing sectors will incur the steepest reduction in Tet bonuses, the department said. As of mid-November, Hanoi recorded 31 firms slashing hours or terminating contracts with their workers, including one state-owned enterprise with 86 affected employees, 12 foreign-invested firms with over 2,000 affected staff, and 18 private businesses with 259 affected workers. In terms of sectors, the textiles segment saw 635 workers with terminated contracts and 790 workers with hour cuts, and the electronics recorded 439 labourers with terminated contracts and 1,500 workers with hour cuts. This year, the average salary of workers in Hanoi is estimated to rise by 6%-7% from 2021, but their income has yet to ensure their living standard due to surges in consumer goods and services, the department said. (VnEconomy, Thanh Nien, Suc Khoe Doi Song, Tin Tuc Dec 15)

Nghe An Creates Jobs for 45,000 Labourers in 2022

Central Nghe An province is estimated to created jobs for over 45,000 labourers this year, up 11.7% y/y and fulfilling 104.9% of plan. In the year, the province has sent around 24,500 workers overseas, up 118.6% y/y and meeting 185% of plan. (Dan Sinh Dec 19)

Quang Tri Aims to Provide TVET to 10,133 Rural Labourers per Year in 2023-2025

Central Quang Tri province aims to provide TVET to 30,400 labourers in rural areas in 2023-2025, or 10,133 per year, according to a plan issued by the provincial People’s Committee. After being trained, at least 85% of learners are expected to find new jobs or continue their jobs with higher yields and incomes. Training will be prioritized for workers of ethnic minorities and in mountainous areas, poor and near-poor workers, people with disabilities, and those with poor incomes. (Dan Sinh Dec 16, Bao Chinh Phu Dec 19)

Binh Thuan Targets to Recruit, Give TVET to 10K People Yearly by 20225

Binh Thuan province aims to recruit and provide vocational training to 10,000 people annually by 2025 and attract 40%-50% of high school graduates into TVET system. The province targets to have 25% of people of ethnic minorities getting vocational training by 2025, and the rate of people with disabilities receiving suitable vocational training is aimed at 25%. (Bao Binh Thuan Dec 15)

Ninh Thuan to Spend VND3.12T on Improving Human Resources’ Quality by 2025

Central Ninh Thuan province will spend VND3.12 trillion on improving its human resources’ quality by 2025, with a vision 2030, according to a scheme issued by the provincial People’s Committee. Under the scheme, the province targets that at least 63% of its labourers will work in key economic sectors and raise the rate to 68% by 2030. (Dan Sinh Dec 19)
HCMC Needs 23,000 - 25,000 Labourers in Dec

Ho Chi Minh City is estimated to need between 23,000 and 25,000 labourers this month, according to the municipal Centre of Forecasting Manpower Needs and Labour Market Information (FALMI). The figure includes 17,000 in the trade and service sector, 8,000 in the agro-forestry-fisheries sector, and 12,800-13,900 in the service sector. Regarding qualification, the figure includes 21,000 of trained labourers, comprising 4,200 at the university and higher levels, 5,700 at the college level, 7,000 at the intermediate level, and 3,800 at the elementary level. (Dan Sinh Dec 15)

Council in HCMC Holds Conference on High School Curriculum for TVET Students

The TVET Council in Ho Chi Minh City has held a conference to discuss Circular 15/2022/TT-BGDDT on high school curriculum for students at TVET institutions. Most delegates agreed that the new regulation has further empowered TVET schools in arranging high school curriculum for students. Meanwhile, some pointed out that the circular still cause a hurdle for students who want to attend the national high school graduation exam to apply for universities. (NLD Dec 19)

1,500 Students Join Japanese Job Fair in HCMC

As many as 1,500 students joined the JOB FAIR VJIT in Ho Chi Minh City on December 16. Firms at the event offered hundreds of vacancies in fields of accounting, business administration, marketing, mass media, banking-finance, economic law, IT, architecture, automobile technologies, mechatronics techniques, automation, logistics, tourism services, hospitality, biotechnology, and food technology. (Dan Sinh Dec 18, Dan Viet Dec 16)

38 Firms in Binh Duong Need 9,000 Workers for Year-end Demand

Thirty-eight firms in southern Binh Duong province need nearly 9,000 workers for their year-end demand, according to the provincial trade union. Some firms with high recruitment demand include All Green Vina with 500, Yazaki EDS with 500, Panco Vina with 1,200, and Vinh Nghia with 1,700. (Lao Dong Dec 20)

57 Firms in Can Tho City Need 1,300 Workers at Year-end

Fifty-seven firms in Can Tho City need 1,388 workers for their year-end demand, according to the municipal employment service centre. The figure includes 350 in the apparel-footwear sector, 200 in the fisheries sector, 100 in the food processing sector, 83 in the construction sector, and 655 in the service sector. (Lao Dong Dec 19)

25 Firms in Ba Ria-Vung Tau Working Hours, End Contracts of Labourers on Fewer Orders
Twenty-five firms in southern Ba Ria-Vung Tau province have cut their labourers’ working hours or terminated contracts with 4,787 labourers. They are mostly in fields of apparel and textile, goods loading/transporting, packaging production, and construction material exploitation. (CafeF Dec 15)

**An Giang Vocational College Focuses on 4 Key Occupations for Sending Interns Abroad**

An Giang Vocational College held a program on career orientation and labour demand in line the fourth industrial revolution on December 18. The school has 50 majors licensed by DVET for training, but it now focuses on four key occupations for sending interns abroad, namely automotive technology, electrical engineering, mechatronics, and electrical refrigeration. In the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years, over 3,000 students enrolled in vocational education each year, and the 2022-2023 school year has seen 5,000 applicants. (Dan Tri Dec 19)

**Ben Tre Plans to Provide TVET to 44K Workers in 2022-2025**

Ben Tre province plans to provide TVET to 44,000 workers in 2022-2025, including 4,940 of college level, 4,020 of intermediate level, and 35,040 of primary and continuing levels. The province aims to offer vocational training to 70,000 people in 2026-2030, comprising 10,000 of college and intermediate levels and 45,000 of primary and continuing levels. In 2022, TVET institutions province-wide recruited 7,787 learners. (Thoi Bao Tai Chinh Dec 17)