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Foreign Cooperation

Further Training Course on “Industrial Communication Networks” for Electrics – Electronics Teachers at VCMI

On July 24-28, six teachers in Industrial Electronics (IE) and Electronics for Energy and Building Technology (EEB) occupations of the College of Machinery and Irrigation (VCMI) participated in a 5-day training course on “Industrial Communication Networks” to enhance their capacity and expertise. The training course was implemented thanks to the collaboration of the Programme Reform of TVET in Vietnam (TVET Programme) with the LILAMA 2 International Technology College (LILAMA 2). The training course was led by Mr. Nguyen Trong Tin and Mr. Kieu Tan Thoi – multipliers of LILAMA 2 in theoretical and practical contents. The lessons revolved around configuring and programming data interchange using certain types of communication networks, as well as installing inverters to meet motors’ parameters. The practical guidance was conducted in parallel with the teaching process at the advanced workshop, which was fully equipped with an extensive range of course-specific technology including PLCs and pneumatic automation stations. An assessment with the purpose to reinforce knowledge in the topic of Industrial Communication Network for VCMI teachers was carried out before the end of the course. “We show our appreciation to LILAMA 2 multipliers for building the theoretical and practical training contents on teaching demands and closely adhered to the present curriculum at VCMI. Through the training course, we were equipped with a lot of technical knowledge as well as necessary technology software to be able to apply and optimize teaching activities in the future” – expressed by Mr. Duong Canh Toan, Dean of Electrics – Electronics Faculty. The training course was conducted within the component “Supporting High-Quality TVET Institutes” as part of the Vietnamese – German Programme “Reform of TVET in Vietnam”. The programme is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implemented by GIZ together with the DVET, under the Vietnamese MoLISA. (TVET Aug 4)

Annual Exchange Workshop on Digital Transformation for VCMI’s Management and Teaching Staff

To form and promote digital culture environment in TVET institutes, on July 31, the Annual exchange workshop on Digital Transformation (DX) took place successfully with the enthusiastic participation of all management and teaching staff from the College of Machinery and Irrigation (VCMI) and Digital Ambassador of the College of Technology II (HVCT) – Moritz Grassl. The workshop created an interactive forum for the board of rectors, management
and teaching staff to share, present, and update on DX activities that have been taking place within the VCMI, as well as future plans. Key presentations include: Implementation plan of Digital Management Platform (Smart TMS function) at VCMI, Self-paced learning course on “Digital Transformation in TVET in Vietnam,” and Piloting Digital Literacy Module at Faculty of Information Technology (IT). Regarding the plan to implement the Digital Management Platform (DMP), Mr. Pham Ngoc Tuyen – Head of Training Department – shared that in early July 2023, the further training course on the operation of Smart TMS function were organized at VCMI for more than 40 core management and teaching staff. After five days of training, the IT firm providing technological solutions also worked with VCMI’s DX Taskforce and agreed on the adjustment requirements to suit the actual needs of the college. From there, the two sides will take the next steps such as additional training for teachers and staff, testing the platform at one functional Department/Faculty, etc. For the self-paced learning course on “Digital Transformation in TVET in Vietnam”, Mr. Tuyen also introduced that this is an 8-lesson course developed by the Programme “Reform of TVET in Vietnam” – GIZ, with a total duration of 186 minutes. Completing the course, learners will be equipped basic knowledge about DX in TVET, approaching methods and models, principles of promoting the implementation of DX in the TVET system generally, and in TVET institutes particularly, including the roles and responsibilities of each individual when participating in DX process. These insights will serve as a basis for learners to continue to learn more deeply and participate in DX activities more effectively. Upon completion of the course, learners will be issued a Certificate of Completion. In regard to the piloting of Digital Literacy module, Mr. Pham The Phong – Dean of IT Faculty – said that: “According to regulations, after more than three years of implementation, the Informatics subject must be updated with its content. Therefore, it is necessary to update the content of this subject in the direction of adjusting and supplementing the digital content and knowledge for students.” It is expected that the pilot content of the Digital Literacy module at IT Faculty will include 05 chapters, with a total time of training, practice, and examination of 75 hours. (TVET Aug 3)

Training of Trainers on “Rooftop Solar Installation in Vietnam” for TVET Colleges – Practical Component

After the previous successful theoretical training, Energy Support Programme (ESP) and TVET Programme-GIZ continue to conduct the practical training course on “Rooftop Solar Installation in Vietnam” for 19 teachers from eight TVET colleges from July 24 to 28 at College of Machinery and Irrigation-VCMI. This was a good opportunity for the participants to put their learned skills and knowledge on PV application and installation, grid-connected systems, operation and maintenance into practice. During the five-day training, participants were guided on the whole process to build the actual solar PV system project by experienced and qualified trainers. Selected teachers from partner colleges were requested to initially research, design and cost estimate for typical solar PV systems. With on-site available facilities and specialized devices in Rooftop solar installation, all participants practiced installing the frame, PV panels, inverters, connectors, grounding and lightning protection systems other electrical hardware. Parameter measurement under normal operating conditions and changed conditions was also carefully practiced. The current regulations, common mistakes and solutions were exchanged and shared during all training sessions by participants and trainers. Besides, all participants are
strictly requested to follow the standard of occupational health and safety. In addition, a field trip to an actual solar PV system in AGTEX Long Binh Industrial Park in Bien Hoa City was organised for selected teachers. This interesting activity aimed to shorten the gap between theory and practice, help them to research, update their knowledge, and provide an overview of the rooftop solar energy sector. Talking about the training course, Mr. Nguyen Dang Que – Vice Dean of Electrical – Electronic Department of Vietnamese-German Technical College of Ha Tinh shared: “The practical training on Rooftop solar installation met the participant’s expectation. The training content and the requirements are very basic and suitable for the selected teachers. The learned knowledge and skills in this training course would be referred for training program of Electronics for Energy and Building Technology occupation at the college in the coming time.” At the end of the practical training, all participants gave positive feedback and they hope to participate in more advanced training courses renewable energy. This activity is the result of cross programme cooperation between the CASE project/ESP and TVET started 2020 in order to develop the capacity of TVET teachers in the field of renewable energy. This activity was 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 commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ GmbH in cooperation with the (DVET) under the Vietnamese MoLISA. The programme aims to better align TVET to the changing world of work which will be increasingly digital and green. (TVET Aug 3)

**Capacity Training on Operation of Renewable Energy Taskforce under Provincial TVET Council in Ninh Thuan**

Ninh Thuan is the pioneer province to establish a Provincial TVET Council in Vietnam. On January 17, Ninh Thuan Provincial People Committee issued Decision 67/QĐ-UBND to approve the establishment of Provincial TVET Council with taskforce groups for prioritised sectors, including renewable energy sector. In order to build the capacity and link all related stakeholders, in 27-28 July 2023, the TVET Programme together with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI – Ho Chi Minh Branch) provided technical support for Ninh Thuan DoLISA and Ninh Thuan Vocational College to host and organize the Capacity Training on the operation of Renewable Energy taskforce under Provincial TVET Council in Ninh Thuan. The objective of this training is to (1) provide the background information on provincial TVET Council, renewable energy context and industry advisory models in the province, (2) provide the knowledge on Skills Council organizational structure, functions, tasks and role of members and (3) organize the discussion to develop an action plan, prioritised goals for implementation, ways to mobilize resources for the RE taskforce. The training was organized for 35 representatives from Provincial TVET Council, Renewable Energy, Tourism taskforce groups, both provincial government agencies and Renewable Energy businesses, High Quality TVET Institutes partners, VCCI, TVET Programme and experts, etc. The participants had a field trip to Loi Hai Wind Energy and BIM Group Solar Plant. It was a good opportunity for them to better understand the actual operation and learn the skills and labour needs for operating a renewable energy plant. The main focus of the training is to build the capacity for members of Provincial TVET Council and
especially the RE taskforce group to operate and develop the technical and communication workplan for the taskforce in the short and long term. (TVET Aug 1)

Seminar on Chances for Vietnam Workers amid European Labour Migration Held in Hanoi

The Vietnam Association for Vocational Education and Training & Social Network in collaboration with the Hanoi College of Electronic and Electro-Refrigerator Technics and GHW (Vietnam) Co., Ltd held a conference on European labour migration and opportunities for Vietnamese workers in Hanoi on August 8. The seminar was held in both virtual and in-person formats with the participation of over 200 delegates, including leaders of DVET, DoLAB, ILO, GIZ, and AHK. The event aimed to promote the labour supply and demand connections and provide information to TVET institutions to help them conduct training in line with the labour market’s demand at home and abroad. (Lao Dong Thu Do Aug 8)

12 Vietnamese Localities Ink Deals to Send Seasonal Workers to South Korea

As of the first week of August, 12 Vietnamese localities had signed agreements to send seasonal workers to South Korea, according to the DoLAB, under the MoLISA. They are Danang City and provinces of Dong Thap, Thai Binh, Ha Nam, Ha Tinh, Thua Thien-Hue, Ca Mau, Quang Binh, Hau Giang, Ha Giang, Lai Chau, and Tuyen Quang. (Hanoi Moi Aug 7)

Greece Eyes Vietnamese Agricultural Workers to Tackle Labour Shortages

Greece is looking to Vietnamese workers to plug severe labour shortages, especially when its agriculture sector is short of 60,000 labourers. Vice President of the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Greece (ETHEAS) Christos Giannakakis and its General Manager Moschos Korasidis have held talks with Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs Nguyen Ba Hoan in Hanoi to discuss the dispatch of Vietnamese workers to the European country. At the meeting on August 8, Mr. Giannakakis said ETHEAS expects to get support from the Vietnamese government and ministry to bring workers from Vietnam to Greece while vowing the best condition for them. Deputy Minister Hoan, for his part, suggested the union sign with the local Department of Overseas Labour to take Vietnamese workers to Greece for agricultural work. He also requested ETHEAS to clarify visa issuance, language requirements, and work permits for Vietnamese workers. Last month, Vietnam licensed three firms to dispatch 50 workers each to Greece for agricultural jobs. (MoLISA, Hanoi Moi, VietnamPlus, Dang Cong San Aug 8)

JICA Helps Develop Vocational Training for AO Victims

The Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a conference in Ho Chi Minh City on August 2 to review a project on developing a vocational training model for people with disabilities caused by AO/Dioxin. So far, the project has successfully trained four agricultural engineers and six health
care staff. Hozumi Araki, Director of vocational training at the project, suggested creating conditions for the disabled to seek, maintain and return to employment; foster self-employment and entrepreneurial spirit, develop cooperatives and recruit the disabled in the public sector through appropriate policies and measures. (HCMCPV, Vietnam Plus English Aug 2)

Two First Labourers from Hai Duong Eligible to Work in S. Korea’s Welding Sector

Northern Hai Duong province has had two first labourers eligible to work in the welding sector in South Korea, according to the provincial DoLISA. If surpassing exams, they will work in South Korea for three years and may have their contracted extended for 10 months-one year. (Hai Duong Aug 2)

Lam Dong Dispatches 6,200 Workers Overseas in Past Decade

Lam Dong province has held 462 job exchange sessions since 2013, attracting 4,300 businesses and 60,000 jobseekers. Through the job fairs, it has supported jobs for 75,000 workers since then, of whom 6,200 were taken abroad. At present, the province has 39 vocational training institutions, including two colleges, two private intermediate schools, and 18 vocational centres. (Lam Dong Aug 2)

Bac Lieu to Send Seasonal Agro Workers to South Korea’s Yeongdong County

Southern Bac Lieu province’s DoLISA has inked an agreement to send seasonal agricultural workers to Yeongdong County, South Korea’s Chungcheonbuk province. Under the deal sealed on August 3, Bac Lieu will annually pick 30-100 labourers aged 25-50 to work in South Korea for either 90 days or five months, with an average salary of KRW9,620 per hour. (Dan Tri Aug 4)

Domestic News

Many Vocational Schools Innovate Training to Adapt to Labour Market Demand

Many vocational schools in Vietnam have been conducting training innovation to adapt to the changing demand of the labour market. Lilama 2 Technical and Technology College, for example, joined the UK TVET System and the American Welding Society, and it was recognized as one of the qualified welding training and testing centers internationally. The school conducts training of some occupations in accordance with models in some countries such as Germany and Australia. The school has adopted many professions such as industrial robots, industrial automation engineering and Industry 4.0, aircraft maintenance engineering, aviation logistics, and others. (Tin Tuc Aug 3)

60% of Vietnamese Manufacturing Workers Cut Living Costs amid Income Fall
To deal with income reduction due to shrinking business, 60% of Vietnamese workers in the manufacturing industries resign themselves to cutting living costs, a survey conducted by Navigos group showed. The survey, covering over 1,000 workers and 500 firms in the manufacturing industries of textiles, footwear, consumer goods, food, and industrial products, said that 37% of employees get side gigs, and 3% do overtime. It indicated that 58% of manufacturing workers had their salaries cut by 30%-50%, 34% incurred wage cuts by 10%, 6% were subject to paid reduction by 10%-30%, and 2% had their wages cut by over 50%. Hour cuts and layoffs are the most-selected options, with 38%-38.5% of firms, while 4%-33% scaled down their production lines, and less than 9% shut down some of their factories. The survey showed that 35% of workers do not want a pay cut, 28% aspire to a long-term contract, 28% want to have their benefits or welfare maintained, and 9% expect to have full-time working hours. (VnExpress, PLO, Dien Dan Doanh Nghiep Aug 7)

Nearly 80% of Vietnam Workers Say Income Inadequate to Cover Basic Needs

A whopping 75.5% of Vietnamese workers said their incomes are insufficient to cover their basic needs, according to a survey announced by the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) in a conference held in Hanoi on August 8. The survey, covering 3,000 workers in six provinces, showed that the remaining 24.5% said their wages are just enough for living costs. The average monthly income of the respondents is VND7.8 million ($325), of which 76.7% is the base pay, and the remaining 23.3% comes from overtime work and allowances from their employers. Of the surveyed people, 52.3% have an additional 10.71 days of monthly overtime work on average, and 76.2% have to do overtime to improve their incomes, with the average overtime amount expected at 47.3 hours monthly. Of the respondents, only 8.1% have savings from their wages, and 11.2% do side jobs to make end meets. Besides, 17.3% of workers turn to loans to cover their expenses, and consequently, 3.1% of them regularly incur threats, and 45.2% are always anxious. Salary is the main reason affecting 53.7% of workers’ decision to get married and 72% of workers’ plan to give birth. Meanwhile, 12.3% of respondents used to claim lump-sum unemployment benefits with an average time of 1.13. Vietnam’s National Wage Council is expected to convene on August 9 to discuss regional minimum wage adjustments for 2024. (NLD, Lao Dong, KTDT, Nhan Dan, Thanh Nien, VOV, VietnamPlus, Tuoi Tre Aug 8)

Vietnam’s Tech Talents Remain Highly Sought after amid Struggling Labour Market

Many Vietnamese companies are hunting for experienced and high-skilled IT workers to accelerate their digital transformation regardless of weakening recruitment demand in most industries. Although many companies are scaling down their payroll, demand for skilled IT staff remains high with the most popular vacancies arising in business administration, software development, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, digital platform development, and data analysis. Ho Chi Minh City-based Quang Trung Software City, a hub for IT businesses, has seen a host of companies, such as Larion, TMA, Rakus, and SPS, recruiting employees in recent weeks. An experienced manager at a business there said that companies have resigned themselves to overpaying applicants to fill their vacancies. The monthly gross income of programmers with more than three years of experience in Vietnam varies between $2,100 and $6,000, according to a survey by recruitment company IT TopDev last year. Employers say that
the wage range is the same this year as staffing shortages continue to linger. Deputy Director at recruitment firm Adecco Vietnam Truong Thien Kiem said that the decline in orders this year has prompted factories to step up automation, hence the high demand for high-skilled IT staff. Recruitment demand is forecast to be on the rise as Vietnam is estimated to need 600,000 developers this year and 800,000 next year, but the shortage could be between 175,000 and 195,000, TopDev said, explaining that only 35% of the 57,000 annual IT graduates meet business demand, and beginners in the industry outnumber seniors. (VnExpress Jul 31)

Firms in Hanoi Need 120K-140K Labourers in H2

Firms in Hanoi are estimated to need 120,000-140,000 labourers in the second half (H2) of this year, mostly in fields of trade-services, wholesales-retails, processing-manufacturing, and construction, said Mr. Vu Quang Thanh, deputy director of the municipal employment service centre. Such demand is attributed to the establishment of over 15,000 firms and operation resumption of more than 5,700 firms in H1. (Tuoi Tre Aug 5)

Hanoi Creates Jobs for 2.5M Labourers in 15 Years

Hanoi created jobs for 2.5 million labourers between 2008 and June 2023, or 15 years of boundary expansion, according to the municipal DoLISA. On average, the city generated jobs for 160,000 labourers every year. (Kinh Te Do Thi Aug 6)

Bac Kan Province Sets 7 Tasks for TVET Development by 2030

Bac Kan province has set seven major tasks to improve the quality of vocational education and training by 2030, vision to 2045. First, it is necessary to strengthen dissemination and raise awareness about TVET. Second, the locality will review and add TVET policies. Third, it is important to enhance the efficiency of state management of TVET. Fourth, the province will standardize quality conditions in TVET in line with the national vocational skills standards. Fifth, it is essential to integrate TVET with the labour market and employment. Sixth, Bac Kan will prioritize state budget, promote crowd funding, and mobilize resources for TVET. Seventh, the province should be active and proactive in national and international TVET integration. (Giao Duc Aug 5)

5,000 Jobs Offered at Career Guidance and Employment Digital Transformation Day

The Career Guidance and Employment Digital Transformation Day was launched at Saigon University in Ho Chi Minh City on August 5, including many activities connecting recruitment agencies with young jobseekers. The event was jointly held by Saigon University, the Student Support Centre, the Youth Employment Service Centre, the Centre for External Service and International and the People’s Committee of District 5. With 35 enterprises participating in the event, about 5,000 vacancies were offered in addition to career guidance and sharing on corporate culture of enterprises. (Nhan Dan, Dan Sinh Aug 4)
Vinh Phuc Aims to Create Jobs for 16K-17K Labourers by Year-end

Northern Vinh Phuc province has set a target to create jobs for 16,000-17,000 labourers from now till year-end, including 1,000 overseas jobs. Besides, the province will enrol 25,500 into TVET, including 1,500 at the college level, 5,500 at the intermediate level, and 18,500 at the elementary level. In the first half of this year, the province helped 11,000 workers find jobs, fulfilling 64% of the year goal. (Dan Tri Aug 7)

Quang Nam Aims for TVET Enrolment of 24K Learners/Year by 2025

Central Quang Nam province has set a target to enrol 24,000 TVET learners annually in 2022-2025, including 4,000 at the college level and 20,000 at elementary and short-term levels. (Giao Duc Aug 4)

Binh Dinh Records 24K Unemployed Workers since Early 2023

Central Binh Dinh province has recorded more than 24,000 unemployed workers since early 2023. The number is projected to increase by year-end. To support labourers, the provincial DoLISA has worked with the Vietnam Bank for Social Policies in job creation and TVET. (VnEconomy Aug 7)

Ninh Thuan’s TVET Institutes Renovate Enrolment, Diversify Training Occupations

TVET institutes in central Ninh Thuan province have strived to renovate their enrolment activities and diversify training occupations, thus contributing to improving human resources quality, meeting demand of local businesses and other south-central localities. For example, Ninh Thuan Vocational College has received support from the State and foreign organizations, such as GIZ, the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as tech corporations. This year, local TVET institutes aim to enroll 9,500 TVET learners. (Tin Tuc Aug 2)

Gia Lai to Allocate VND109B on TVET, Job Creation for Labourers of Ethnic Minorities in 2023

The Central Highlands province of Gia Lai will allocate nearly VND109 billion on TVET and job creation for labourers of ethnic minorities and in mountainous areas in 2023, in implementation of the national target program on socio-economic development in such regions. (Gia Lai Aug 6)

HCMC’s Commerce-Service Sectors Witness Most Layoffs in H1: Dept.

The commerce-service sectors in Vietnam’s southern economic hub of Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) saw the largest number of job losses in the first half (H1) of this year, said Director of the municipal Department of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs Le Van Thinh on August
3. As many as 91,968 workers incurred job cuts and filed for unemployment benefits in the period, of whom 26,454 were from the commerce and service industries, 23,969 from the processing and manufacturing sectors, 1,854 from construction segment, and 1,266 from the banking, finance, and insurance industries. Of the furloughed, 17,752 are over 40 years old, accounting for 30%, and 30,923 are unskilled workers, making up 52.41%. Among businesses cutting a total of 38,462 staff citywide, 29 scaled down by over 500 workers each. (Dan Tri Aug 4)

36% of Jobless Benefit Applicants in HCMC Have University Degrees

Of more than 82,500 people filing for unemployment benefits in Vietnam’s southern economic hub of Ho Chi Minh City in the first six months (H1) of 2023, more than 27,800 hold a bachelor’s degree or higher, accounting for 36%, said an official. Director of the HCMC Employment Service Center Nguyen Van Hanh Thuc said that the number of applicants jumped by 7%, or 5,000, from the same period last year, while 53% had no degrees. HCMC’s unemployment rate of workers with university degrees and higher is nearly double that of the country. In January-June, 13.85% of more than 562,600 workers claiming unemployment benefits have a degree or higher. The unemployment hike boiled down to layoffs at some major firms in the city, such as Taiwanese shoemaker Pou Yuen Vietnam, Ms. Thuc said. As for those with qualifications, she explained that some found themselves unsuitable for their jobs anymore. (VnExpress Aug 1)

TVET Institutes in HCMC Fulfil 35% of Enrolment Targets as of Jun 30

TVET institutes in Ho Chi Minh City had enrolled 96,000 learners as of June 30, fulfilling 35% of their enrolment targets, according to the municipal DoLISA. The figure included 7,000 at the college level, or 20.5% of target; 15,000 at the intermediate level, or 57.45%; and 76,562 at the elementary and continued training level, or 30.62%. Experts said such enrolments are positive signs. However, local TVET institutes will face hitches in fulfilling the rest 65% without drastic measures, said Mr. Tran Anh Tuan, a human resources expert. (SGGP Aug 4)

92,700 Labourers in Binh Duong Unemployed, Have Contracts Terminated in Jan-Jul

Over 92,700 labourers in southern Binh Duong province became unemployed or had their contracted terminated due to a lack of orders. 62% of them were at foreign-invested enterprises while the rest at domestic firms. (VOV Aug 7)

Dong Nai’s Workforce Downsizes by 36,200 on Lack of Orders

Southern Dong Nai province’s labour force had narrowed by 36,200 as of end-July due to order scarcity, said Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hien, director of the provincial DoLISA. Most of them meet requirements to enjoy unemployment benefits. (Lao Dong Aug 3)
Ben Tre to Train Key ASEAN, International Occupations

Southern Ben Tre province is aiming to form multi-occupational and multi-level colleges, as well as train key ASEAN and international occupations, according to its TVET planning in 2021-2030, with a vision to 2045. The province is set to have 26 TVET institutes by 2025, 28 by 2030, and 31 by 2045. (Bnews Aug 7)

Ben Tre Supports Employment for 15.5K Workers in Jan-Jul

Ben Tre province supported jobs for 15,518 people in the first seven months of this year, reaching 77.59% of the year’s target. It dispatched 702 people abroad for work under contract, meeting 35.1% of the year’s goal. (Bao Chinh Phu Aug 7)