

PROJECT “THE BLUE FOR GREEN VIETNAM”

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VOLUNTEERS FROM USSH



If you go to Vietnam every summer holiday, you can see blue shirts around the country. These shirts are very familiar to each Vietnamese, named volunteer blues, or “the blue”. The volunteers from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi have a chance to support the vulnerable people who mostly live in bad conditions and environment. Our main target is to equip local people with capacity and resources in order to achieve a sustainable development in their local areas, especially in term development. Therefore, we named our project that “THE BLUE FOR GREEN VIETNAM”.

THE EFFECTS OF “THE BLUE FOR GREEN VIETNAM” PROJECT

This project has an enormous impact on all three levels: individual, social and international. At individual level, this project has changed the awareness of both university students and local residents about the environmental protection. In particular, voluntary students in USSH act as the communicators to local residents. They show local residents how to protect their farms, their water resources, their roads and so on. Moreover, these students help local people to improve their knowledge of the key role of their behaviors toward a sustainable development. As a result, there has been a significant increase in awareness and positive behaviors to local environment and resources among not only local people but also university students.



At social level, due to the success of this project, poor conditions at every village that they volunteered have improved a lot which enables the poor villager to believe in a better life in the long term period. It can be seen that the university impacts communities through volunteer activities, while communities affect the university through providing students with practical experiences. With this project in place, it has strengthened the link between our university and the society. The volunteers of USSH bring opportunities and caring to vulnerabilities in communities, such as: the poor, the elderly, children, women and the wounded have survived in the war.

At international level, this project needs supports from non-government organizations in terms of funding. These organizations may assist money to volunteer activities in the communities, including enlarging new roads, rebuilding local schools and providing good conditions of sanitation. This project also appeals to international students who are studying at the USSH to participate in volunteer programs every summer holiday. These students will play as the linkage to bring this model to apply in their home countries.

THE CURRENT CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT

The project is coping with several challenges in terms of funding and supporting equipments which consequently have a negative impact on its maintenance and the domain of implementation. A lack of fund will definitely result in difficulties in meeting the needs of the vulnerabilities in the local areas and the accommodation of voluntary students in the local areas where they implement their voluntary activities. Therefore, the number of students participating in “The Blues for green Vietnam” project has decreased year by year.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the project “The Blue for Green Vietnam” implemented by volunteers of USSH has strongly manifested an objective to a sustainable development. It has brought a deep change to individual, social and international levels by improving the awareness and behaviors of all parties. We believe that this project indicates the spirit of WSES to make a change at every level from individual to international. Therefore, it should be a lesson for other cities in Vietnam in particular and for other countries in general to apply toward a better environment.

