



FOUNDATION AND ASSOCIATION EURASIA For The Development of Special Education in Vietnam

Chemin des Fleurs 10, CH-1607 Palézieux, Switzerland
<http://www.eurasia.org.vn>

Dear Friends and Members of EURASIA,

We are sending you our gratitude and best wishes for a peaceful Christmas time and a happy New Year. EURASIA and Peaceful Bamboo Family Team are happy to bring you joyful and dynamic news as we are trying our best to contribute to a wholesome, inclusive and sustainable development full of hope and joy:

Tinh Truc Gia — Peaceful Bamboo Family TTG

TTG, a living and vocational training community for young adults living with disabilities, is at the heart of all the work of Eurasia. All realizations in TTG are Eurasia pilot projects that are inspiring other organizations and attracting more and more interest in the country (National TV, etc). **TTG is thriving and many youngsters find a meaningful and adapted work — they get training, find friends and have a good life here.** The dimension of social entrepreneurship in the different workshops is starting to develop more and more. The teahouse, the food processing workshop, the painting workshop, the biodynamic garden attract more and more customers. Mr. Tu, the director, and his team are doing wonderful work.

Biodynamic Garden in TTG

We started the biodynamic garden in 2011 with the help of Mr. Marc Blachère from Copake Camphill Community USA. **In 2014 we bought a new land for medicinal herbs and for collecting biodynamic seeds. Seven youngsters and three gardeners work on the 4000m² of land.** After four years the soil has become rich and fertile: there are many animals enjoying the healthy earth, birds, frogs, bees.

Through the support of Mr. Frank and Mrs. Annelies we now are able to buy two cows to support our biodynamic farming work. We are looking forward to welcoming them as new members of the community. We also have a new watering system now, as we finally found groundwater. We were capable of digging a well (by hand! It was too deep for machines) and we now have a pond and a flowform fountain to collect and purify the water. Thank you, Bob and Gitti!



Inclusive Waldorf Kindergarten in TTG

There are now 13 children in TTG's inclusive Kindergarten. Mrs. Hoa, Mrs. An and Mrs. Thuy, a new teacher, are creating a wonderful atmosphere of love and joy for the children to grow and learn. The teachers continue to receive training and joined a module of Waldorfkindergarten training in Saigon lately.



New Adolescent Project in TTG

TTG is a social therapy project for young adults living with disabilities. Working, living together is at the center of our work in TTG. But more and more parents of adolescents with developmental and behavioral difficulties, from 12 to 18 years old, are approaching us because their child cannot integrate into the normal school system. Families are exhausted and in despair, because they cannot find an appropriate education for their child with disabilities in this specific age range. **We aspire to open a small adolescent sector, where some of these adolescents can get the care adapted to their specific needs.** They still need to learn and get educational as well as therapeutic support. We are looking for funding and support for this very important project that will complete Eurasia's care all the way from early childhood until adulthood and old people's care (in Tinh Duc Pagoda).

Early detection and parental advise office in Saigon

Mr. Khanh, EURASIA representative in Vietnam, and his team have moved to a new office in the 7th district in Saigon. During this year they accompanied children with developmental problems from the age of 28 months until 7 years. **Children receive therapeutic and pedagogical care and the parents get advise from a team of educators and psychologists.** The office still needs financial support but also more training. The reputation of the office is growing and they hope to become financially independent within the next two years. Invitation for the team to give trainings and advise at schools is increasing.





Eurasia Learning Institute for Happiness and Wellbeing: ELI

We have been conducting courses and training programs ever since we started our work in Vietnam, but recently a new phase has begun. We are expanding beyond the field of Special Education and are serving a much broader audience.

- The **Call To Care pilot program**: developing **Mindfulness and Compassion in schools** has been implemented with over 500 primary school children in Hue City. The preliminary assessment has proven that there is a very positive outcome. The next step will be to implement the program in Hue province, but we still need to find the necessary funds to do so.
- We have conducted a series of **presentations and seminars in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi**. We were positively surprised to see the interest and engagement of many people, especially among the younger generation. We covered themes such as **Gross National Happiness (GNH), Educating the Heart, Mindfulness and Compassion, GNH in business** and more.
- **Hoa Sen University**, a large not-for-profit private University in Ho Chi Minh City, has decided to implement a **“Mindfulness-based Compassion and Happiness” training course** for all their students. We have committed to training during one year a core group of about 40 professors, students and managers who will become the trainers and will disseminate the program in the university.
- We have co-facilitated a workshop with **Dr. Russia Ha Vinh Leuchter** and **three other researchers from Lausanne and Geneva University on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mindfulness** in Hue City.
- We have organized a **workshop in TTG with all our ELI partners** to design a strategy for the years to come. These are just some examples to show how ELI has developed in a marvelous way within a very short time. Furthermore, most of these workshops have generated income for Eurasia. There are many possibilities and challenges at the same time, and we are exploring and facing them with confidence and hope.



Signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with Hue Province

In November, we have signed a new MOU with the People's Committee of Hue Province that will give us a stronger legal status in Vietnam and will help us develop Eurasia and ELI in a broader way. It also gives us the basis for the development of the "Call to Care" program at the Provincial Level. It is a further encouragement that shows the high level of acceptance that Eurasia receives from the Vietnamese authorities.



Christmas 2015 is also a challenging time, as exclusion, fear, violence are menacing our global humanity. In a very humble way we try to contribute to bring about Peace, Inclusion of all those who are Different, Healing, Love and Joy.

Thank you all — partners, friends, donors — for your faithful support and your friendship!

Warmest,

The EURASIA Team

For your Donations: Association Eurasia
CCP 17-496738-5 / Banque Cantonale Vaudoise Compte 987.86.01
IBAN CH78 0076 7000 A098 7860