

Chao Vietnam tieng Anh

J A P A V I E T N A M

No.1-2018

November 2, 2018

Appearance of Vietnamese Children

Isamu Ando



When I lived in an apartment in Tokyo's Adachi ward, I constantly heard children calling friends to play after class. In our supplemental tutoring school, children are running upstairs to the tutoring room and playing when lessons are supposed to start. Indeed, it's in the nature of children to play.

Kindhearted Vietnamese children, found in tour.

We visited a group in Bac Ninh where we have supported fatherless families victimized by HIV/AIDS. This year we provided scholarships for the children of these families. When we heard from young mothers on daily life, disease and medicine, disparities on education etc., I saw agony and sadness in the children's appearance, by my eyes.

We left there to go to next destination, which located in the deep mountain side of ethnic minority village. On the way to this village, we had to get off micro-bus due to very narrow road, so I started walk slow steps on this steep mountain path. The around 10 years old children, walking together, suddenly took my hand to assist my steps, sometimes showing to point bumpy and dangerous area. I couldn't speak

Vietnamese, just knowing only "Bao nhieu tuoi?", so no conversation with them. No mothers or families to order them to help me was on the road so I couldn't find the reason why they took such actions for me. When we arrived the village, these children were disappearing to join friends for play.

In Binh Phuoc province, there is a dormitory for ethnic minority children, operated by Catholic nuns. 105 children from this dormitory are going to school in the town. JAPA-Vietnam has donated to this cause and every year we visit to observe and discuss the issues and the current situation. Children always welcome us with traditional dances and songs. This year Japanese university students joined us and played with the young children.

When I returned to Japan, I received a letter of appreciation from a nun. "You and your colleagues have brought smiles on the faces of Vietnamese children who once carried sadness. I would express my sincere appreciation from deep within my heart. Please give my best regards to your colleagues."

About the project sub-headquarters in Ho Chi Minh City

Minoru Sakurai

Since last Autumn there has been discussion survey the possibility of establishing a regional headquarters in Ho Chi Minh City. I would like to consider the justification of creating a regional headquarters as well as issues with JAPAVIETNAM's support activities.

After the Great Earthquake in East Japan, the earthquakes in Kumamoto, Osaka, and Hokkaido, the landslides in Hiroshima and Hokkaido, the floods in Kurashiki etc., these natural disasters have been suddenly increasing in Japan. Therefore, it is easy to understand that the priority of giving aid to those calamity-stricken regions in Japan is a must.

These days the economy of Vietnam has been growing at 6% annually and has brought upon the surprising modernization of suburbs in big cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City which has been on the move more than ever. There is also the increasing number of Vietnamese tourists coming to Japan, that is an example that the wealthy class in Vietnam is growing bigger and bigger. I think that there are a lot of Japanese asking themselves why they should still support a Vietnam that is becoming increasingly wealthy.

Thus, this is the challenge that we face in justifying our activities..

Besides, there are only a few young people willing to manage the activities of the organization and the number of members has not increased as we had expected. If this continues, funding will be an issues and, like a deflation spiral, there will be risk of getting ourselves shrink. How can we boost our meaningful activities?

This problem was the root of the idea that suggested the establishment of a regional headquarters in Ho Chi Minh City.

After the 2018 tour of the places that we have supported or are considering to support, I stayed in Ho Chi Minh City for a month to survey the feasibility of creating a regional headquarters. With plenty of Vietnamese friends and acquaintances as well as Japanese residents in Ho Chi Minh City, I went around to visit Japanese and Vietnamese associations and companies to talk about JAPAVIETNAM's activities

and invited them to join us. These efforts have resulted to visit Japanese and Vietnamese associations and to join us. These efforts have resulted in 20 persons agreeing to join us, so it' much more than predicted and so many thanks to say.

In Vietnam, the gap between the cities being showered with the sunshine of progress compared to the less fortunate provinces grow and the need to still support disadvantaged places is still pressing. I think that from now on, if both the Japanese and Vietnamese people work together to help those disadvantaged and in need of our support and if we put in much more effort, we can make the sun shine on those lives, even if it's brings just a small ray of hope. Although there are still many other issues alongside obtaining permission for our activities in Ho Chi Minh City, I firmly believe that once each one is solved, JAPAVIETNAM will have a new opportunity.

Having crossed Nguyen Hue Boulevard which is surrounding by many skyscrapers and jogging near to the Saigon River and thoroughly feeling Vietnam's modernization, by chance I saw the bronze statue of president Ho Chi Minh which was also looking at the view as I was, I wondered how he was thinking.....I believed that we indeed have the same thought "*want to support the weak and the poor*". Last but not least, I hereby would like to express many thanks to the people in Vietnam who joined/supported JAPAVIETNAM this time.



Visit on destinations in North Vietnam

Yoshitada Murayama

Our visits in Northern Vietnam included four stops: Tan Tri village in Bac Ninh province, and Dai Tu town in Thai Nguyen province, as well as Phinh Ho village and Ta Lanh village of Yen Bai province.

Our efforts at Bac Ninh Province are focused on scholarships for the children of fatherless families that were victimized by HIV/AIDS. Two of our stops are a part of that effort: at Tan Tri village we met a group in which such families strive for self-sufficiency through vocational training such as sewing work while at Dai Tu town we met with members of a group called Sunflower. The leaders of "Sunflower" touched upon the difficulty of connecting HIV patient families that are scattered in the mountains, which moved our hearts. Although it was outside our schedule, we decided to accept Mr. Ando's proposal and utilized JAPA-VIETNAM's resources to support Sunflower group's activities



In Yen Bai province, our first stop was Phinh Ho village where JAPA-VIETNAM supported the purchase of tea equipment last year. The tea business is going well and we were informed that sales have been made to various places via the Catholic church. We also passed by Nghia Lo town and forest villages which are arranged as settlements narrowly appearing here and there along the road before the view returns to the mountain again. Passing through a village where the cut rocks line up, we arrived at Ta Lanh village. Since our minibus could not enter due to

due to the narrow road, we spent the rest of the journey hiking up the mountain path which included passing through a breathlessly steep and red slope before reaching the center of the village. While there, we assisted in the plan to draw water from a nearby river to supply to each household. The village leaders were eagerly explaining us details while sharing their drawings of the proposal. I was excited to imagine that next year that I could see water running from the faucet amidst the tall peaks of red soil that surround this village.



Returning to Ha Noi, I met Vietnamese support group. Their progress was the construction of a new school each year in ethnic minority communities thanks to funds raised at the charity golf competition held on International Women's Day (March 8). Among the leaders we met, I was moved to here there was a person responsible for the practical application of progress which included negotiating with the province administration was also from an ethnic minority.

I saw drastic change since my last visit to Tan Tri village 3 years ago. The paddy field is still extensive but a rebuilt house could also be seen, yet there were no sights of ducks from the rice field nor papaya that were once planted in the ridge. Perhaps one could imagine the trends of a farmer's income has changed. In Ta Lanh village, the ethnic minority in the district where we started our hike were from Dao tribute while the group who are different from the Hmong tribute that were supported by JAPA-VIETNAM.

(From the Editors room)

Welcome to JAPA-VIETNAM

We are very excited to receive new members of JAPA-VIETNAM from Vietnam. This summer we started a new program to expand our activities in Vietnam to share our objectives and ideas to individuals in Vietnam in hopes of having them join us. A very happy milestone has been achieved by the introduction of 20 new members who joined us after our one-month trip to Ho Chi Minh City and visiting various people there.

Taking this opportunity of our new Vietnamese members, we decided to publish

CHAO VIETNAM - Tieng Anh. We have printed CHAO VIETNAM twice a year in Japanese to update Japanese members of our activities. The new CHAO VIETNAM - tieng Anh will be issued 4 times a year and will be based on the articles of CHAO VIETNAM's Japanese edition alongside news for members outside Japan.

We hope you will enjoy CHAO VIETNAM - Tieng Anh.

Thank you



To assist us with fundraising, you can donate via bank deposit to:

- Japan Post Bank

address; 1-8-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda, Tokyo 100-8798, Japan
BIC (swift code) JPPSJPJI
accountee; JAPA VIETNAM
account No.00100-8-118761

- MUFJ Bank Ltd.

Tokyo-Joshiidai Sub-Branch
address; 9-1 Kawadacho, Sinjuku, Tokyo 162-0054, Japan
Swift code; BOTKJPJT or BOTKJPJTXXX
accountee; JAPA VIETNAM representative ANDO Susumu
account No.315-3544236

JAPA-VIETNAM

(Office) Kibe Hall 4F, Jesuit Social Center 6-5-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda, Tokyo 102-0083 Japan

Phone: (81+) 3-5215-1844 / Fax: (81+) 3-5215-1845

E-mail: japavietnam2014@gmail.com FaceBook: JapaVietnam