



# Trinh Foundation

AUSTRALIA



## 2016-17 Paediatric Speech Therapy Course Graduation

For the 32 graduates of the 2016-17 Paediatric Speech Therapy post-graduate course, the 14 September was a day they will not forget quickly!

On that day Ho Chi Minh City almost came to a standstill. With a severe storm hitting the city during the early hours of the morning, traffic and chaos hit the streets of Ho Chi Minh City. But none were deterred from celebrating the success of the graduating speech therapy class. With 150 guests in attendance in the auditorium of University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach (UPNT), the graduating class celebrated with their family, friends, classmates, colleagues and former speech therapy graduates, teachers of the class and university rectors (board). After 10 months of learning and clinical practice,

the day of celebration had finally arrived, and nothing but smiles could be seen on the faces of each of the graduates.

Ms Sarah Day, Australian Volunteer for International Development (AVID) and Clinical Coordinator for the 2016-17 class, paid tribute to the efforts and incredible dedication of each graduate. She spoke of the pride she had when she thought about each one of the graduates and the efforts they have made and the commitment they continue to show to advocate for speech therapy in Vietnam and of course for the children and the families they work with to improve their capacity and participation within their communities.

Many achievement commendations were given during the graduation ceremony. However, two special awards were made, and deserve mention:

Dr Ho Thi Thu Hien from Da Nang was awarded the achievement for highest total marks across academic and clinical terms. Well done Dr Hien!

Ms Tran Do Phuong Ngoc from Ho Chi Minh City was also awarded a commendation award for her excellent achievements across academic and clinical terms also, with the second highest marks of the class. Well done Ms Ngoc!

Sarah also encouraged everyone to celebrate the achievements of the previous speech therapy graduates from the TFA-UPNT first and second courses. Many of these graduates were involved in either lecturing, co-lecturing with TFA volunteer lectures, or in direct clinical supervision of the graduating students while on placement. Although TFA directors were regrettably unable to attend the graduation ceremony, Sue Woodward, founding director, sent through a message on behalf of the TFA board, congratulating the graduating students, former graduates and UPNT staff on their success. She sent particular praise to the capacity that UPNT and former graduates have been able to achieve throughout the 2016-17 course, which they will build on for further success into the future.

UPNT opened a fourth speech therapy course at the end of the graduation program. Mr Quyen (first course speech therapy graduate) opened the UPNT second Paediatric Speech Therapy Course for 2017-18. With many new students of the 50+ enrolled students in attendance, they celebrated a new era of UPNT offering and coordinating this new course without direct TFA affiliation. TFA and UPNT Directors are proud of their history of collaboration and the successes they have achieved with supporting the graduation of 65 speech therapy graduates across three courses. TFA Board of

Directors congratulated UPNT Board of Rectors on the opening of the fourth speech therapy course.

Congratulations to the 32 graduating speech therapists of the 2016-17 paediatric course! TFA look forward to continuing to work with each one of you through the implementation of the continuing professional development program, including the Skype mentoring program to be launched shortly.



## Speech Therapy to be Further Developed in Vietnam

TFA is pleased to be working with the Medical Committee Netherlands-Vietnam (MCNV) to further develop speech therapy training and services throughout Vietnam. With grant funding from USAID MCNV is implementing a five year project that will first seek government approval for a masters course to provide graduates able to lead future bachelor level degrees.

TFA's specialist knowledge, expertise and network of highly skilled volunteers is being recognised by our appointment as technical advisors to the project. We are developing an MOU with MCNV and other partners in Vietnam and Australia and

will shortly commence a needs assessment research project in Vietnam to support the government submission. Recruitment of contract academic and practitioner advisors is our next priority along with completion of a work plan and budget.

TFA is also working with Handicap International to further develop services in a number of hospitals around the country. We are currently preparing a service contract to source volunteer clinical specialists to work with Vietnamese speech therapists in clinical settings.

These are exciting next steps towards are goals for speech therapy training and practice in our commitment to supporting sustainability and building capacity for the profession in Vietnam.

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## Mentoring in the Workplace



Sarah Day, AVID volunteer and Speech Pathology Clinical Educator with University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach (HCMC), met with speech therapy graduates across Vietnam in their workplaces to provide mentoring support. Each

speech therapist developed their own professional development plan, and have been sharing their dreams and aspirations with Sarah.

The graduates are employed across a variety of workplaces and so their goals for future development are varied and usually specific to their interest areas and workplace needs. However, many speech therapists working within paediatric service delivery are keen to increase their understanding of and develop their skills in the area of speech sound disorders. In September Ms Thuan, a graduate of the first TFA-UPNT speech therapy course, provided a one-day workshop to newer graduates to support this. They are also keen for more direct supervision and mentoring within their workplaces to improve their clinical skills across all areas of clinical management.

Speech therapists working within adult service delivery have requested further support from TFA to organise an advanced dysphagia management workshop in HCMC, which TFA will work towards organising in the coming months.

Many speech therapists have also discussed their intent to either set up private clinics or improve their current clinics' practice and have requested support around developing service models to meet the demands of the communities they work in, while also considering the financial implications of these goals.

A new mentoring program *Beyond Borders Skype Mentoring Program* is to be launched by TFA in the near future to more specifically support the needs of the Vietnamese speech therapists!

## **Vietnam Represented at the Asia Pacific Conference of Speech, Language and Hearing 2017**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Biannual Asia Pacific Conference of Speech, Language and Hearing 2017 was held in September at the Narita International University of Health and Welfare, Japan. A number of TFA and Vietnamese Speech Therapists attended and presented at the well-attended conference. With over 450 attendees from across the Asia Pacific region, and others from around the globe, the event was

a wonderful celebration of research, clinical implementation, the profession, education and culture.



With the conference promoting a focus on the education of speech pathologists across Asia-Pacific, the diversity of the region was highlighted through the significant statistics that tell the story about the challenges and opportunities that face our region. With over 50% of the world's population living in the Asia-Pacific area, and with over 3,000 languages spoken, we certainly are one of the most diverse regions of the world. Experienced and well-respected leaders of our profession participated in symposiums and round-tables to discuss their ideas with the audience.

University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach (UPNT) and Trinh Foundation Australia (TFA) graduate, Dr Le Van Cuong presented his very first oral seminar in English in “Training for speech therapists to use GRBAS scale to assess voice quality in Viet Nam”. Ms Truong Thanh Loan, also a graduate from the UPNT-TFA course, presented her first poster presentation on “A guide for mentally retarded children to articulate vowels, consonants and single words”.

Ms Pham Ben, Vietnamese PhD Student studying at Charles Sturt University, Australia, also presented two oral seminars in “Validation of the Intelligibility in Context Scale with preschool children in Ha Noi, Viet Nam” and “Acquisition of consonants, vowels and tones by children in northern Viet Nam”. Ms Ben is currently completing her PhD under Professor Sharynne McLeod, who also

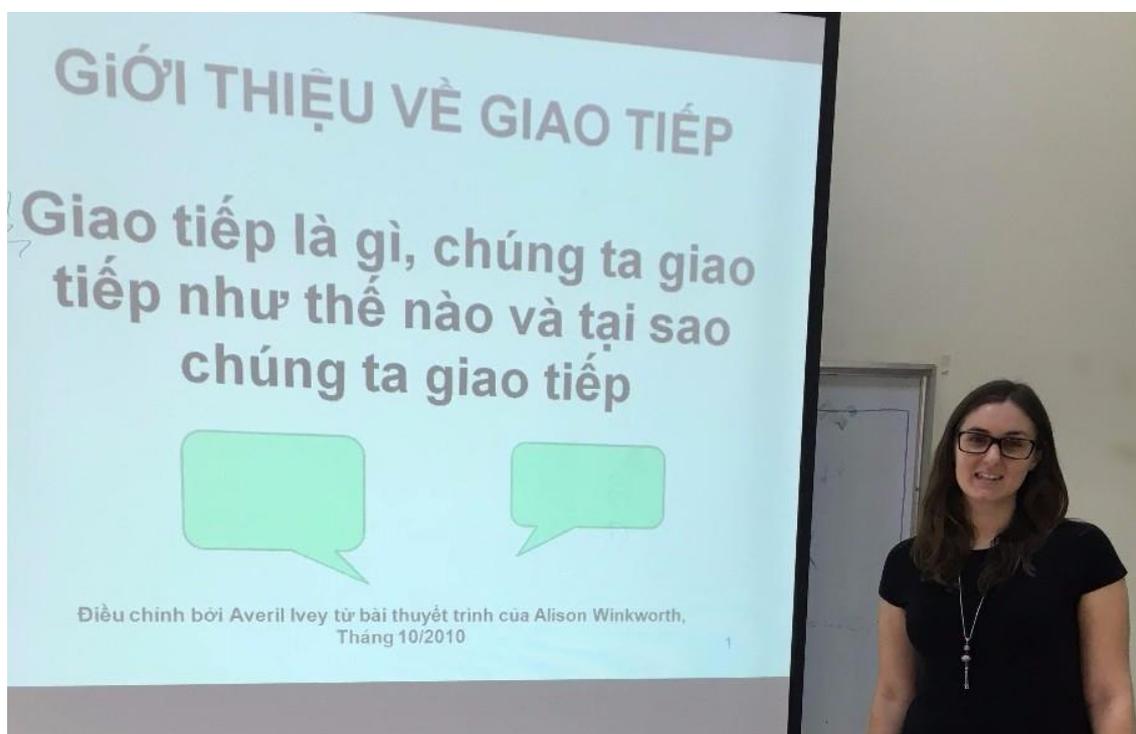
presented on “Identifying children with speech sound disorders across languages (invited)” at the conference.

Dr Sally Hewat, TFA Director and representative of the University of Newcastle, Australia also presented two oral seminars on her work in the development of speech pathology curriculum in China.

Congratulations to all those who presented and advocated for the development of the speech therapy profession in Vietnam!

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## Farewell to Averil Ivey



We would like to farewell Averil Ivey AVID volunteer who was based at the National University of Education in Hanoi training and mentoring the special education teachers at the Early Intervention Centre. Averil also provided numerous workshops and mentored a graduate of the Paediatric Speech Therapy Course. Her greatest legacy from her time in Vietnam however, was the development of a Vietnamese Language Screener (VLS). It was certainly a mammoth task developing this assessment tool. She is continuing to work on this in conjunction with others in finalising the norms and working toward the publication of the VLS with the support of TFA.

TFA thanks her for her dedication to supporting speech therapy in Vietnam and for all she has achieved during her time there.

## Thank You TFA Interpreters and Farewell Ms Quyen



Trinh Foundation Australia and Speech Therapy graduates recently got together to thank all TFA interpreters and to farewell program assistant coordinator and long-term TFA interpreter Ms Pham Quyen.

TFA and Sarah Day (AVID) would like to honour and sincerely thank Ms Pham Quyen for her commitment and enthusiasm to further the work of TFA over the past few years. Ms Quyen's expertise and professionalism in the art of translation and interpretation have assisted in the development of speech therapy across Vietnam. Speech therapists from all three TFA-UPNT cohorts were present to thank Ms Quyen for her dedication over the years to a profession that is not her own, but to which she has shown high commitment and helped to strengthened with her support. Ms Quyen has not only provided expertise in the area of translation and interpretation, but also more

recently supported TFA with program coordination services. The most recent paediatric course could not have succeeded without her input.

We all wish Ms Quyen the very best as she moves onto working for the Saigon Children's Charity in HCMC and continues to advocate for children with special needs. We look forward to working with Ms Quyen into the future as she supports TFA on an as-needs basis.

Sarah Day, Speech Pathology Clinical Coordinator at UPNT with Australian Volunteers for International Development program will also say farewell to UPNT shortly. Speech therapy graduates and TFA thanked her for her input and support over the last seven months. Sarah will take a couple of months leave from Vietnam and return to a new position at Danang University of Medicine, Technology and Pharmacy to prepare for future speech therapy courses there. Further information about this role will be announced in the coming months.



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Trinh Foundation Australia is proud to be a partner for Project J594 Vietnam Speech-Language Program with Global Development Group. GDG (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT approved Non-Government Organisation [NGO] carrying out quality humanitarian projects with approved Partners

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