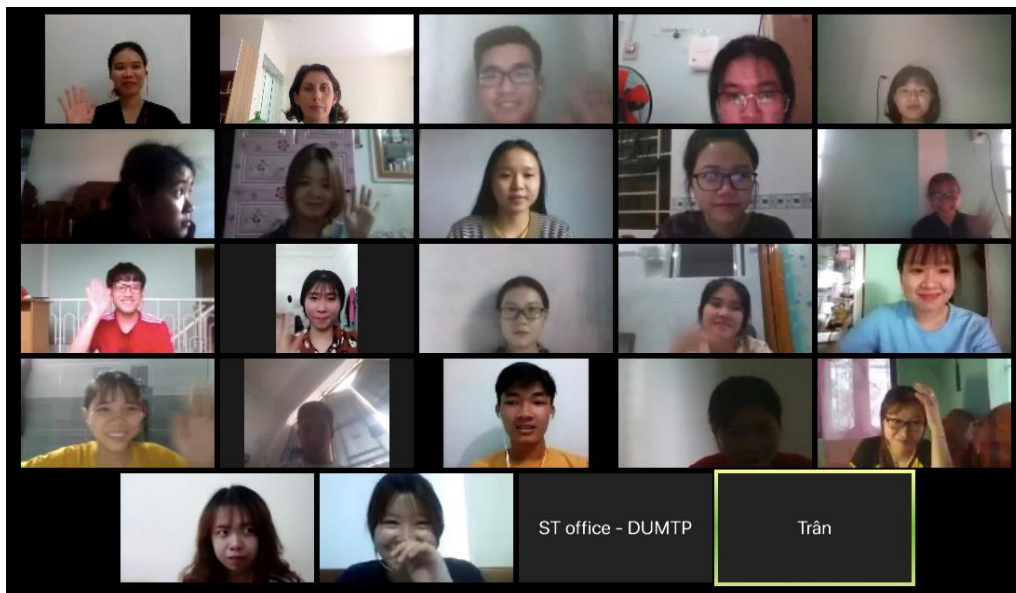




Virtual Platforms as Enablers of Change

On March 27, the directors of Trinh Foundation Australia (TFA) celebrated 12 years as a virtual board. Since the beginning TFA's operations have been successfully administered virtually, with board members and staff from all parts of Australia and overseas managing remotely a large part of our collaborations and projects in Vietnam, including mentoring, research, and curriculum development. TFA has been using virtual CPD and mentoring for many years, in particular our Beyond Borders Skype Mentoring program has been in place for 2 years and is planned to continue during 2020. Hopefully, these services and our virtual board can serve as an inspiration for other organisations in these challenging times.



Learning via Zoom

We are all living disrupted lives due to COVID-19, including our colleagues and students in Vietnam, and our willing volunteer lecturers and clinical educators in Australia. They say new ways of working and collaborating together will be forged as a result of the crisis.

Face to face teaching in both the Bachelor and Master degrees in speech and language therapy was suspended in March, after borders closed in Vietnam and in Australia. For extended periods of time students were not permitted on-campus in the Vietnamese universities. But, ever resourceful, we have been working with colleagues in Vietnam and Australia to adapt teaching planned for face to face delivery to online delivery using Zoom for whole class sessions and Zoom breakout rooms for practical classes and discussions. It's not perfect but it keeps the students going on their learning journey, engaged and motivated. We know that some content and skills in the subjects must be taught and assessed face to face, so we are planning for this at some future time when travel is again possible.

Meanwhile, we would like to thank some people for stepping up to enable learning to move forward for the students in Vietnam. The marvellous Stephanie Wells – a UK SLT who happened to be living in Hanoi and was willing to step into the breach to teach some subjects face to face and online. Steph is currently in Da Nang, finishing the teaching of one subject while also supporting Australian lecturers to adapt and deliver teaching online. Steph may be there for a while longer- for as long as it takes to get a flight home to the UK! Thanks Steph, for your amazing generosity and commitment to the profession in Vietnam! See Steph's piece below.

Thanks too to the people willing to give online teaching from Australia a go, while also managing the COVID-19 adjustments demanded of them in their clinical work and/or academic work in Australia. Dr Alison Winkworth, Ms Janella Christie and Ms Felicity Megee we are very grateful to you. Thank you to other Australian lecturers who are also considering when they might be able to convert their planned subjects into online teaching. Thank you to the interpreters at two universities delivering the degrees – Ms Tran in HCMC and Ms Quynh in Da Nang. One of them interprets in real time for the lecturer on Zoom and the other translates the Zoom chat comments from the students from Vietnamese into English so the lecturer can address questions as they go. Amazing teamwork!

And thanks also to the Australian academics and Dr Ben Pham in Hanoi who have used the unexpectedly available time as a result of the suspension of teaching in the Master degree to work intensively with the students on their thesis research proposals and ethics applications, while also still working in the new normal in Australia and Vietnam.

Implementation of Virtual Learning



Stephanie Wells reflects on how virtual learning has been achieved:

TFA work with two different universities in two different cities (HCMC, Da Nang) and due to COVID-19 both have had different restrictions and policies at different times. This has meant, in order to run the Master and Bachelors courses, a lot of flexibility has been required. All

modules of the course are very interactive, requiring student interaction with each other, with multimedia platforms, presentations and role-playing therapy sessions and assessments. Three weeks ago, it was decided to trial teaching one module online, using the platform Zoom - the challenge was to keep the interactive elements of the course with all students separately in their own home.

Using breakout rooms, shared screens, and a lot of trial and error, the first subject (language and cognitive communication disorders of a neurological origin) has been completed. Students have successfully carried out therapy and assessments on each other, engaged in group work and presentations. Teaching online has definitely presented some challenges and does lose some element of connection between yourself and the student, however, it has provided a way to stay connected and continue teaching with students in their homes across Vietnam.

AAC Project Commences



TFA are pleased to announce the commencement of our newest project with our partners Humanity and Inclusion at the end of this month. This exciting project, supported by USAID, will be associated with Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) in Vietnam, and is planned for two phases.

Phase one involves mapping followed by a Needs Assessment of current AAC across Vietnam. We are delighted that previous TFA volunteer Ms Kate Margetson has accepted a consultant role for this important and needed project. Kate, who will work remotely from Australia, has extensive experience in this area, having developed an iPad app when volunteering at the Kianh Foundation in Vietnam in 2015-16. She will be ably assisted in Vietnam by the current leader of the Vietnamese Speech Therapy network Dr Thao. (UPNT Graduate 2010-12).

Following completion of phase one, recommendations will be made to Humanity and Inclusion regarding the development or application of an existing APP to suit the Vietnamese context as phase two of the project. This APP will meet the critical needs of a large cross section of the Vietnamese community who experience significant communication impairment.

Happy 12th Birthday Trinh Foundation



To mark the 12 years, we asked friends of Trinh to recount how they have been involved with TFA and their thoughts about TFA's work:

"TFA has turned 12! Looking back, I remember the early challenges: applying for the licence, organizing fundraising and laying down the foundations for Speech Therapy in Vietnam. My enduring gratitude to Sue Woodward, Lindy Mc Allister and my Australian friends at TFA for supporting me all these years and making this dream come true."

Prof. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Dung, former Director of ENT Hospital and Rector of University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Trach, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

"It has been a real honour to be associated with Trinh Foundation Australia. Since my time as Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City, Trinh has shown true resilience in achieving a number of remarkable goals. Many congratulations."

Graeme Swift - TFA Patron and former Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City

"Congratulations to Lindy McAllister and Sue Woodward for their vision and long-term commitment and all of the dedicated board members, students, staff, volunteers, lecturers, clinical educators, family members, donors and so many others who have worked hard towards the goal of the right to communicate for everyone in Vietnam."

Professor Sharynne McLeod - Charles Sturt University and volunteer lecturer

"Trinh Foundation puts a stone firmly on the development of OGCDC's speech therapy service. With these fruitful results, OGCDC now has an independent and professional Speech Therapy team."

Professor Nguyen Viet Nhan - Office of Genetic Counseling and Disabled Children

"No doubt that TFA really has played important role and contributed most in development of speech and language therapy in Vietnam over last 10 years. I wish TFA continue development and success more in coming years."

Pham Dung Country Director - MCNV Vietnam

"Happy Birthday TFA. Thank you for all the wonderful opportunities over the past 12 years. It has been incredible watching the growth of TFA over this time and seeing the positive impact you have made for so many people, me included."

Merran Peskier - volunteer

"There is an organisation that has considerably contributed to the development of Speech-Language Therapy in Vietnam for more than ten years - that is Trinh Foundation Australia. I genuinely appreciate what they have done to bring benefits for Vietnamese people with communication and swallowing disorders, especially via teaching activities."

Le Khanh Dien - Speech Therapist (UPNT Graduate 2010-12)

"Happy Anniversary, Trinh Foundation. Thank you for bringing Speech Therapy to Vietnam, where it is so vitally needed! And thank you for your support over the years in helping us find ways to train our the staff at our school in basic strategies that they can use to assist our students to communicate, even though they themselves are not speech therapists."

Jackie Wrafter – The Kianh Foundation

"My involvement with TFA first came about by chance at a time when I was looking to make a greater impact within speech pathology. TFA have supported me on two volunteer assignments in Vietnam and I continue in awe of the amazing achievements of the organisation. Happy Birthday TFA!"

Jemma Thompson - volunteer

"TFA's 12th birthday gives me occasion to reflect upon my wonderful journey with them – from clinical educator and course coordinator in the early years at University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach in HCMC, to joining the TFA Board this year. The work of TFA has grown exponentially over this time; however, it has always retained its focus upon building grassroots capacity for speech therapy in Vietnam and it is this focus which remains my motivation to be involved."

Marie Atherton - TFA Director

Annual Board Strategic Planning Day



Regular TFA Board meetings are held virtually by Zoom, about 10 times each year, and once a year we meet face to face for our annual strategic planning day- this year on 7 March. Directors travelled from interstate and regional NSW and we were delighted that our patron,

Mr Graeme Swift attended from Canberra. We are grateful for the support of the University of Newcastle in providing a meeting space at the Sydney Campus.

The meeting is a great opportunity to spend some time together and for detailed discussion of our priorities and aspirations for our work. Our original goal to support the establishment of formal SALT courses in Vietnam has been achieved and our next three year plan builds on this work and maintaining our partnerships in Vietnam and Australia.

We reaffirmed our Mission - To improve the quality of life of Vietnamese people through collaborations and To develop knowledge and skills in management of communication and speech disorders in Vietnam.

To achieve this we agreed five focus areas: **Education and training** continuing our partnership collaborations for the BSALT and MSALT courses; Providing mentoring and supporting services through **CPD, the Vietnam Speech Therapy Network, with universities and hospitals**; **Public education** to raise awareness of SALT services and the profession in Vietnam; as well as through **International engagement and partnerships**; and ensuring **Governance and Resources** are effective and well managed.

Each Director has committed to oversight an area and lead key strategies to achieve our agreed priorities. While the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted timeframes and prevented volunteers from visiting Vietnam for now we are maintaining our overall strategic direction- working to continue those projects that can be managed remotely, looking to innovative ways to resolve issues and ensuring that we are ready to pick up face to face lecturing and clinical supervision as quickly as possible when it is safe to do so.

We look forward to continue working with our partners in Vietnam and Australia and thank them, and our many supporters and volunteers for their role in our journey.

A Huge Thank You and Mountains of Gratitude to Sarah Day (and her Family)



The global health pandemic has sadly meant that Sarah Day's current volunteer assignment in Da Nang has been cut short after AVI returned all volunteers home to Australia.

Sarah and her family returned to Australia late March after nearly 3 years living and working in Vietnam. Sarah commenced her first assignment as a volunteer for Scope Global in

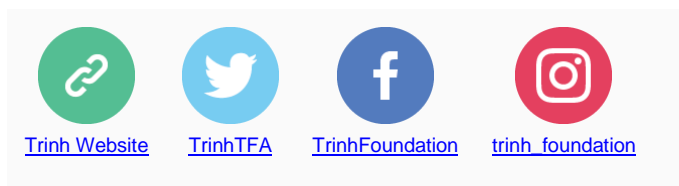
partnership with University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach in HCMC and later took on a second and third assignment with Australian Volunteer International in partnership with Da Nang University of Medical Technology and Pharmacy.

In addition to many other outcomes and achievements, Sarah has

- been key to the development and implementation of Speech and Language Therapy training courses in HCMC and Da Nang
- led the development and implementation of the Beyond Borders Mentoring program,
- developed, implemented, or facilitated numerous workshops
- established key partnership with educational and health facilities in central Vietnam
- provided in-country support to other academic and clinical volunteers
- welcomed Australian Council to Vietnam and the Consul-General HCMC to Da Nang sharing the work of TFA and development of SALT in Vietnam
- obtained grant funding to obtain SALT resources, develop culturally appropriate clinical tools and educate the Vietnamese community about SALT

Sarah certainly is a professional that the international speech pathology community should be proud of, and the TFA Board would like to publicly extend their heartfelt gratitude to Sarah (and her family) for all the energy, time, effort and no doubt the many sacrifices made, in supporting the development of speech and language therapy in Vietnam.

So, once again, THANK YOU to you and your family and we are ever so grateful for your ongoing support.



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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