



Course News

Successful Completion of our Third Partnership Year with MCNV

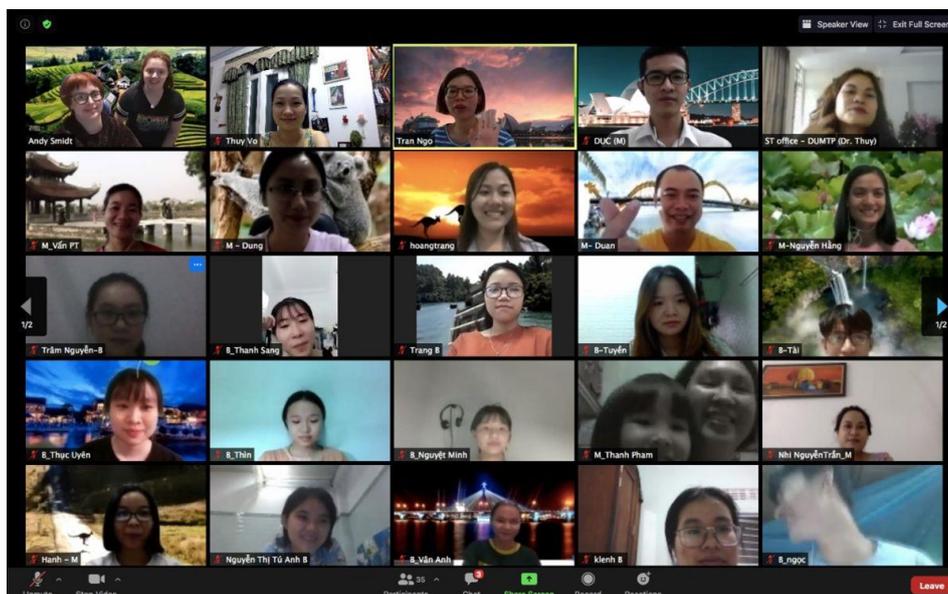
In September TFA completed the third year of our partnership with MCNV and commenced our fourth contract year from 1 October 2020 for the SALT in Vietnam Project. TFA is pleased to partner with MCNV to support the future direction and consolidation of SALT training and services throughout Vietnam, and gratefully acknowledges the assistance of USAID in achieving these outcomes.

Despite the uncertainties we have all experienced due to COVID-19, the highlight of the past 12 months was the commencement of both the Master in Speech Language Therapy (MSALT) at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City (UMP) in November 2019 and the Bachelor of Rehabilitation Technics with SALT specialisation (BSALT) at Da Nang University of Medical Technology and Pharmacy (DUMTP) in September 2019.

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Online Teaching Continues with Lecturer Andy Smidt



Due to COVID-19, Dr Andy Smidt was not able to travel in person to Vietnam to deliver her course about lifelong disability and AAC. She therefore worked to create an online experience for both MSALT and BSALT students which she delivered in August 2020. Andy created a package of self-directed learning material for the students, as well as lectures delivered via Zoom. Andy has written a summary of how she approached developing the teaching material as well as the impact on student learning which you can [read more about on our website](#).

Andy also described the issues she encountered creating material taking cultural issues into consideration. She wrote about how challenging it was to understand where people with a disability live and work in Vietnam. To create realistic cases, Andy needed to understand Vietnamese societal attitudes and needs, and apply these to her Australian-based curriculum. Andy discusses how she resolved this and her own insights into this process.

The key message is perhaps one of flexibility and negotiation. One example of this that Andy used was to upload photos from Australia and ask the students to upload photos of Vietnam. These were used as Zoom backgrounds (as pictured). This sense of sharing locations and talking about the various places created a sense of shared closeness.

TFA acknowledges with thanks the ongoing commitment and support of all volunteers who have adapted their teaching and schedules so readily to the demands of COVID-19.

TFA News

The Needs of People who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Vietnam



This year TFA, in partnership with Humanity and Inclusion, conducted an assessment of digital technologies used in Vietnam by people with communication disability. The aim of this project was to gain an understanding about the needs of Vietnamese people with communication disability and how best they might be supported. Surveys and interviews were completed by speech therapists, special education teachers, and families of children with communication disability, to gather information about current use and needs. The findings of the assessment revealed that low-tech AAC is widely used, however families require training, and there is a need for culturally relevant resources. High-tech AAC is just emerging, with very few apps available that are inexpensive, available on different devices and offer alternative access.

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Ethics Education Project Completed



In 2018 Trinh Foundation Australia, along with partner organisations Speech & Hearing Cambodia and University of Ghana obtained a Speech Pathology Australia Grant to develop Ethics Education resources.

We are very pleased to report that despite the usual challenges that an international, multi-time zone project might experience, not to mention a global pandemic, our project is now complete. The project has successfully provided support and resources for speech pathologists and others working with people with communication and swallowing difficulties in three Majority World countries: Cambodia, Ghana and Vietnam.

Due in no small part to the tenacity, drive and significant in-kind support of our project officer, Dr Karen Wylie.

[Click here to read project outcomes...](#)

Mentoring Program Continues



The Beyond Borders Mentoring program continued for a third year. Our dedicated and skilled mentors from Australia, the UK & USA reconnected with groups of Vietnamese speech therapists to support their new clinical goals for 2020.

Like everything, we were expecting COVID-19 to throw a spanner in the works of our program. Surprisingly, this was not the case as the remote nature of our mentoring program has made it, in some ways, COVID-proof. With goals, mentoring support, interpreting, and translating already being 100% online, both mentees and mentors were accustomed to the online nature of the program. This allowed them to work, collaborate, support and learn, unaffected by COVID-19.

[Read more..](#)

Volunteers assist with Guidelines for Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury and Cerebral Palsy



The Ministry of Health in Vietnam has announced a [set of guidelines](#) for speech and language therapy diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation for patients with stroke, traumatic brain injuries and cerebral palsy. This is a product of Humanity and Inclusion's (HI) project with the Ministry. Two of our MSALT & BSALT volunteers Jemma Thompson and Janella Christie contributed to the development of these guidelines.

[Read more...](#)

Thinking of our Vietnamese Work Colleagues



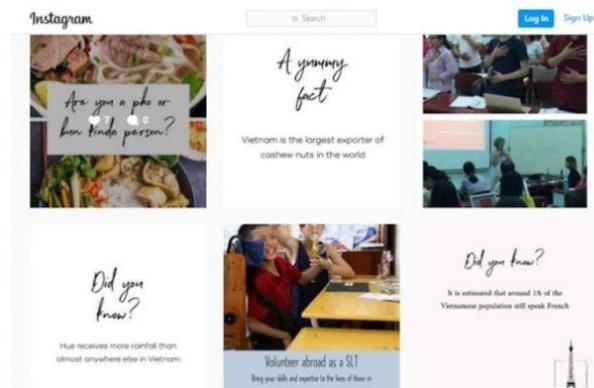
TFA are thinking of our Vietnamese work colleagues and friends in Central Vietnam as they again struggle with devastating floods causing loss of life, economic distress, and a huge disruption to their lives. The TFA team have always admired the resilience of the Vietnamese people and we extend our good wishes for a quick and lasting recovery from this major climatic event.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy

The TFA Board of Directors has signed off our Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy.

[Read more...](#)

TFA Instagram Page Gets a Revamp



Have you seen our [Instagram](#) page recently?

It has recently had a revamp with lots of insights on Vietnam, speech therapy and so much more so why not have a look.

Supporting TFA

While volunteering in Vietnam has been put on hold for the moment if you are interested in volunteering in the future or would like to find out more about volunteering please email Carla at volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org



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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

Our mailing address is:

Trinh Foundation
18 Gilbert St
Dover Heights, NSW 2030
Australia

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