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On October 24, 2014 officials from Arizona State University held a strategic partnership reception in Ho Chi Minh city to thank their partners in the Higher Engineering Education Alliance Program (HEEAP).

The reception marked the achievements gained during the program implementation. In attendance were Rena Bitter, the U.S. Consul General, ASU President Michael Crow, ASU professor Jeffrey Goss, director of HEEAP, and several other representatives of the program.

“I want to express our sincere thanks to our sponsors, industry partners and academic partners for their passion and active contributions to the implementation of HEEAP” Crow said. “We believe this project will aid the development of education systems in the participating universities and colleges, and will spur innovation in education systems throughout Vietnam.”

Jeffrey Goss said HEEAP has had several successes to date. Already, more than 220 lecturers from HEEAP universities have been trained in the U.S. and HEEAP is working on projects to transform engineering education from a passive, purely theory-based instruction to active, applied and theory-based learning. In addition, many conferences, seminars and workshops have been convened to enhance leadership capabilities in the participating universities. Also, a program for female students’ interests in technical fields has provided 600 female vocational college students with scholarships from the program, Goss said.

HEEAP has been a key part of the U.S. Government’s support for higher education in Vietnam. It has allowed Vietnam’s universities and colleges access to the educational methods and systems used in the United States. The program is expected to expand in the coming years.

In August 2014, administrators, faculty members, QA professionals and staff participated in institution-specific, one-day VULII workshops.

These workshops provided customized coaching tailored to developing each institution’s academic program objectives and outcomes supporting accreditation. The workshops took place in the cities of Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang and Hanoi.

On August 19-20, administrators, faculty members, QA professionals, staff, industry partners and members of the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) attended a two-day VULII leadership conference in Ho Chi Minh City.

The conference included a rector panel discussion, measurements of leadership success, AUN-ABET accreditation best practices and lessons learned, industry engagement and global perspectives from MOST, World Bank and USAID.
In an effort to bolster Arizona State University's existing partnerships and mission to help advance education in Vietnam, university officials and President Michael Crow recently traveled to Vietnam to meet with local officials, evaluate their progress and discuss further possible action.

While in Vietnam, Crow met with Hoang Minh, president of the Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology (PTIT), to sign a five-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) on collaboration between the two institutions.

As part of the memorandum, the institutions will work together to improve teaching methods in Vietnam through a jointly hosted conference in Hanoi, a short training course on cyber security at ASU, the establishment of a joint master's of science program, and the development of a new learning management system.

“ASU has already participated in some collaborative programs to advance Vietnamese education,” Crow said. “Through this MOU, we are happy to support PTIT and enhance their students' learning outcomes.”

This year Ho Chi Minh City Vocational College of Technology (HVCT) celebrated its 36th anniversary as an institution of higher education. During the opening ceremony for the 2014-2015 school year, they celebrated the prestigious achievement of being awarded 2nd Class Independence Order from the government of Vietnam.

According to the Law on Emulation and Commendation, as specified by the National Assembly of Vietnam, this award is to recognize the successful building and development of a public institution for more than 30 years.

Rector Nguyen Thi Hang was individually awarded the 3rd Class Labor Order for her outstanding leadership of the institution. Orders are conferred to individuals that have provided meritorious services and achievements benefiting the nation. Three ministers from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, as well as other high ranking government officials attended the celebration for this notable accomplishment. HEEAP and other partners were invited on stage to demonstrate their support over the years.

Over the past 4 years, 28 faculty from HVCT were trained at ASU through HEEAP workshops on modern teaching methodology. The deans and leadership of HVCT are also building their own capacity under the VULI program. We join HVCT in celebrating this great honor!
On June 30, 2014, 24 engineering lecturers from the five HEEAP Vietnamese partner universities traveled to Arizona State University to take part in a HEEAP Faculty Development Training. The cohort spent six weeks learning about engineering curriculum design, student success and active learning techniques.

During their training, the cohort learned valuable lessons that will not only benefit their own classes, but also serve to transform education at their institutions. Upon their return, Faculty from each of the five universities shared that they planned to hold workshops and seminars to disseminate the knowledge gained during the HEEAP workshop at their universities.

During the program, a number of activities and projects were conducted to support the faculty's progress towards the development of course learning outcomes (CLOs) for a selected course that they teach in Vietnam. These activities addressed the writing of course learning outcomes, identifying and modifying the level of instruction related to the CLOs using Bloom's Taxonomy, the creation of a set of assessments for their CLOs, as well as plans for the modification of their classroom instructional practices so that they can introduce active learning exercises. These activities support the creation of a course portfolio for each faculty member's target class that outlines the CLO, where the content related to these CLOs are addressed in the class, and provides a sample of an assessment that can be used to evaluate student performance with respect to the CLO.

The faculty also participated in a week of English language training that focused on presentation skills, audience analysis, leading a discussion, questioning methods, pronunciation and grammar skills development. Another week was dedicated to statistical analysis and design of experiments (DoE), where the faculty learned how statistical and process-oriented thinking can guide the experimental planning process to produce the most effective experimental strategy. This week also focused on teaching the fundamental concepts and methodologies of DoE in a straightforward manner that allowed participants to master the techniques.

During their 6-week program, the cohort visited the Intel Corporation's Chandler, Arizona facility where managers from different departments at Intel shared information on what they look for when hiring engineers for their plants around the world, including Intel's largest and most advanced assembly and test facility in their global manufacturing network, located in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Some of the characteristics mentioned when selecting employee candidates were: English proficiency, strong knowledge in statistical concepts for designing experiments and data analysis, and good interpersonal skills, such as working in teams, good communication and problem solving skills.

These desired attributes reinforced and validated HEEAP's training program, which focuses on developing curriculum that strengthens those and other important skills for the global engineers of the future.

The faculty left Arizona on August 9, 2014 after a closing ceremony where ASU's Deputy Provost and Chief of Staff, Mark Searle, addressed the certificate award ceremony and congratulated the HEEAP faculty on completing their training at ASU, while challenging them to become agents of change at their universities—contributing to the larger effort of education reform in Vietnam.

Click here for more pictures of this event
The Vocational Faculty Development Training took place September 8-October 3, 2014. With a total of 28 faculty members, the cohort was one of the largest vocational groups ever hosted by Arizona State University. The three HEEAP Vocational partner institutions were represented in the cohort, including Cao Thang Technic College, Ho Chi Minh Vocational College of Technology and Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City.

The visiting faculty members spent their first week at the ASU Tempe campus working with senior lecturer and HEEAP academic director David Benson to explore and learn how to apply aspects of instructional best-practices and active learning principles for education. Faculty also learned about Bloom’s Taxonomy and the role it plays in targeting their level of instruction and in establishing outcomes for their students. They also spent a portion of the week working with Scott Welsh and Nancy Lewis from the American English Cultural Program (AECP) developing English language skills with a focus on engineering education.

The second and third weeks of the training were spent at the ASU Polytechnic campus where Kathy Wigal, Scott Danielson and Scott Pollat taught how to design multidisciplinary curriculums and adapt project-oriented approaches to instruction. This portion of the training included an opportunity for the faculty members to work in teams on an applied project that consisted of designing, building and testing a small gantry crane. The gantry crane was controlled by an Arduino Uno micro-controller connected to a laptop computer. The faculty were divided into small teams and every team member was assigned to at least one technical responsibility clearly related to one of the deliverables. The five deliverables included: the physical structure, the mechanical crane subsystem (cables, claw, lift, movement, etc.), the electrical subsystem, which included sensors and the wiring associated with the Arduino, the Gantry Crane control program running on the Arduino (source code), and a team project notebook. These applied projects were a great success.

The final week of the training was spent at the ASU Tempe campus where the visiting faculty continued working with Benson and the AECP faculty members to improve their course learning outcomes and to develop a final presentations using the NABC method. In addition, the faculty members developed portfolios that outlined their plans for incorporating the learner-centered and active-learning methods in their courses. On the last day of the training the faculty members gave their final presentations detailing the plans for revising their instructional methods.
Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT), a HEEAP partner institution, received accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) in the fields of computer science and computer engineering.

The accomplishment was officially announced on November 4, 2014 at a grand ceremony in Ho Chi Minh City by Associate Professor Vu Dinh Thanh, who also serves as the Rector of HCMUT. Approximately 300 students and representatives from universities, colleges and industry attended the event. The achievement is one of the most meaningful milestones in the university’s 57-year history.

ABET is a non-profit organization that accredits colleges and university programs in the disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering and engineering technology. ABET accredits over 3,400 programs at nearly 700 colleges and universities in 28 countries.

In his acceptance speech Thanh graciously mentioned that HEEAP “has since 2008 accompanied us in modernizing the teaching methodologies, the training and assessing processes.” We congratulate HCMUT on this notable achievement!

Finalists selected in National Instruments Innovation Design Competition for Young Entrepreneurs

In collaboration with HEEAP, National Instruments launched the National Instruments (NI) Innovation Design Competition for Young Entrepreneurs in Vietnam earlier this year. The competition aims to advance innovation and entrepreneurship among young engineers in the country.

Five finalists were chosen among the papers submitted. The finalists proposed projects in the following areas:
- Wireless transceiver for biomed
- Computer aided detection of abnormal tissue
- Shrimp farming
- Microwave drying
- Condensation

On December 9, 2014, these five teams will be given an opportunity to present their projects to a panel of judges in Vietnam. Each team will bring their functional prototypes and offer a short presentation.

Developers of the most innovative project prototypes that address challenges in the local communities of Vietnam will win exciting prizes including an opportunity to present their research at the global NI Week Conference in Austin, Texas, U.S.

If interested in attending this event, please contact Sabrina Carretie at sabrina.carretie@asu.edu.

Upcoming Events

December 9, 2014
National Instruments: Innovation Design Student Competition final presentations in Ho Chi Minh City

December 8-16, 2014
HEEAP In-country Workshop in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Da Nang

December 12, 2014
HEEAP Intel Female Vocational Scholarship Ceremony (HEEAP 2.0) in Ho Chi Minh City
On March 16–17, 2015, Da Nang University of Science and Technology (DUT) in partnership with the Higher Engineering Education Alliance Program (HEEAP), will be hosting the third annual Vietnam Engineering Education Conference (VEEC). VEEC 2015 is a major event bringing together global industry, government and academic professionals to discuss transformative ideas and solutions to engineering and technical education programs in Vietnam.

The theme for VEEC 2015 is “Engineering education as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship in Vietnam.” The annual conference includes interactive plenary sessions, panel discussions, technical sessions and seminars with emphasis on partnerships between education, industry and government to build capacity in engineering and technology innovation in teaching, research and discovery.

The conference will feature numerous keynote presentations on topics such as innovative methods in education and building public-private partnerships in both education and scientific research. Technical sessions at the VEEC will address a variety of topics ranging from the development of bi-national research and education collaborations to classroom activities that promote and reinforce student engagement. The conference will also include several industry/academic panel discussions and technology exhibits from HEEAP’s technology partners.

VEEC 2015 is an opportunity for participants to develop connections and share best practices in addition to enjoying the sights and hospitality of Da Nang. For HEEAP alumni this is an excellent opportunity to share the impact of your training and to build collaborations for future education research. It is through continued partnership that our efforts will result in a lasting transformation of education in both Vietnam and the partner countries.

visit veecc.heeap.org to submit an abstract or register to attend

Photos from VEEC 2014 in Ho Chi Minh City