

Vietnam AIDS Public Policy Training Project
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Project Brief September 06

Project Description

The Vietnam AIDS Public Policy Project is a partnership between Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy (HCMNPA) and the Health Policy Initiative. The project aims to strengthen the capacity, commitment and accountability of government and Communist Party leaders at national and provincial levels to respond effectively to the AIDS epidemic. Through a rigorous training program, political leaders gain a better understanding of the determinants and potential impacts of AIDS and successful strategies for an effective multi-sectoral and rights-based response.

The curriculum covers health, socio-economic and gender perspectives, international and Vietnamese best practice in prevention, treatment, and impact mitigation, and practical strategies for improving multi-sectoral leadership and collaboration. International AIDS experts based Boston developed the curriculum and worked with Vietnamese faculty to adapt the content to the Vietnamese context. Please see the attached bios of the Boston-based faculty. The course combines lectures, teaching cases, field visits, group discussions, and an integrative exercise to maximize participant exposure to current AIDS issues and effective strategies and to help them synthesize this information for developing multi-sectoral AIDS action plans. In addition to training policy makers, the project aims to institutionalize the course through building capacity of Academy faculty and integrating the curriculum into the Academy's on-going academic training programs.

Project partners are funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, Ford Foundation, and PACT/USAID through PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief). The Vietnam project is part of the AIDS Public Policy Training Project launched in China in January 2004. The China project is a partnership between the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government and Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Highlights of Project Activities to date

To date project partners have:

- adapted course curriculum to the Vietnamese context,
- trained 20 faculty from the Academy, government and local organizations in course curriculum and teaching methods,
- trained 100 national level policy makers,
- trained 90 senior provincial policy makers from 21 provinces,
- completed baseline data collection in six provinces for an impact evaluation, and
- completed course evaluations from three trainings.

Planned Project Activities September 06-August 07

- training of approximately 200 policy makers from 16 provinces;
- continued refinement and revision of the training curriculum and strengthening the capacity of faculty from the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy; and
- second and third rounds of data collection.

Study Tour Information

Representatives of the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy, our main project partner on the Vietnam AIDS Public Policy Training Project, will conduct a study tour to Boston, Washington DC and New York City September 17-28.

The purpose of the trip is to gain a greater understanding of successful AIDS public policy and the implementation of best practices in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and impact mitigation. In addition to learning from US-based programs, members of the delegation will give lectures and seminars and meet with faculty and students from different universities.

The delegation members are:

- Prof. Nguyen Van Sau, Vice-President of the Academy and Project Director, Vietnam AIDS Public Policy Training Project
- Dr. Luu Dat Thuyet, Head, Department of International Cooperation
- Prof. Cao Duc Thai, Director, Institute for Human Rights Research and Project Co-Director
- Dr. Nguyen Chi Dung, Vice Director, Institute of Sociology and Project Co-Director
- Ms. Nguyen Thanh Hai, Lecturer, Institute for Human Rights Research
- Dr. Le Ngoc Hung, Lecturer, Institute of Sociology
- Ms. Le Thuy Hang, Lecturer, Institute of Sociology
- Mrs. Hoang Thi Nam Chi, media expert

For further information on the study tour, please contact:

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