





#### MEDIA RELEASE

## Five innovative learning programs win AusAID – World Bank support

Hanoi, April 9,2012 - The Vietnam Blended Learning Program 2012 has awarded grants for five out of 140 innovative learning program ideas received from social organizations, non-governmental organizations, schools and universities, private companies and local training agencies, following the AusAID – World Bank's call for ideas in October 2011. Each learning program this year receives an approximate amount of USD 30,000 to roll out their program, thus supporting training and career development for 150 faculty managers, 140 teachers and 40 specialists and researchers.

The 5 winners of the Vietnam Blended Learning Program 2012 grants, which focus on improving teaching and learning activities through the use of information and communication technologies, are:

- School of Education, Can Tho University for the project "Building Blended Learning in Can Tho University from Design to Implementation towards quality teaching and independent learning".
- Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Training Center for the project "Building Leadership skills for mid- level managers in higher education institutions in Vietnam using blended learning method".
- School of Biotechnology, International University, Vietnam National University HCMC for the project "Further Improvement of Teaching Quality at the International University Vietnam National University HCM through the use of Blended Learning Approaches".
- Education Quality Training and Support Center, Vietnam Private University Association for the project "To build Quality Assurance capacity in Vietnam's higher education institutions by providing training and facilitating expertise and experience sharing between experts and practitioners in QA".
- Asian Institute of Technology Center in Vietnam for the project "Developing and establishing an ICT supporting system to provide blended learning activities and e-training management for the master program in "Engineering and Environmental Geology" at Asian Institute of Technology in Vietnam".

During the implementation, the 5 project teams will work closely with their international partners to learn and apply innovations and best practices. These projects are expected to help their beneficiaries to successfully prepare for the challenges of a knowledge world. Winning teams are ready to start the first activities of their projects.

"Making teaching more effective and interesting is always the ultimate aim of many lecturers or educational providers. We are grateful to the support of AusAID and the World Bank. This project is expected to spice up our education at the School of Biotechnology, which has been recognized regionally by the ASEAN University Network. We look forward to blending the efforts of all the relevant stake-holders into a final success", Dr. Hoang Tung, Dean of School of Biotechnology, International University, VNUHCM, one of the five winning teams shared enthusiastically.

The funding has brought hope and excitement for the winning organizations. That will enable them to carry out support activities that they have expected, as expressed by Ms. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Acting Director of Regional Training Center, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation "This project will help us develop and strengthen our training curriculum in educational leadership and management, and especially help us implement the blended learning model, meeting the needs of those educational managers who do not have enough time and access to the fully on - site training courses. This project will also tighten the cooperation between our Vietnamese trainers and Australian partners, which will then enrich the learning experiences of our project beneficiaries".

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