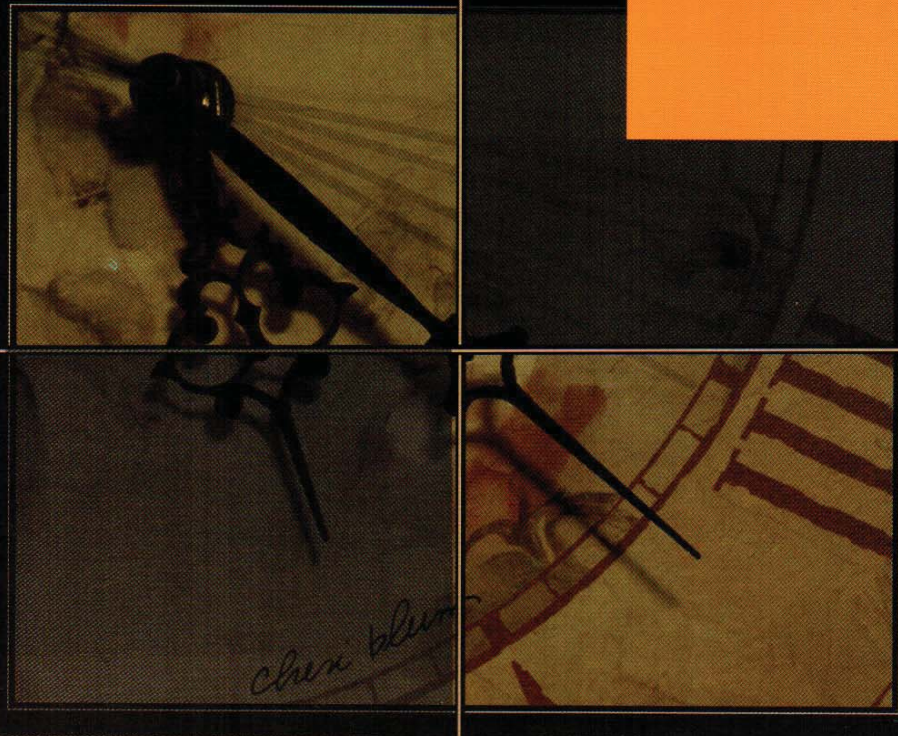


Now
& Then



Message from

Ms. Bettina Cooke

Counsellor (Education, Science & Training)

As the newly appointed Australian Government Counsellor for Education, Science and Training to Vietnam, it is my great pleasure to write this short message to all members of the Vietnamese Graduates from Australia Club (VGAC).

Since the inauguration of the first Kookaburra Chatter in 2000, the Club has gone so far in developing itself as the strongest alumni club in Vietnam. In my experience with a number of other countries, the VGAC is one of the most impressive alumni groups in the region and has a uniquely strong relationship with AEI. In this fast-growing economy, as we encounter opportunities and challenges in business, education, economics and the environment, our connections with both business and public community are no longer just desirable, but vital. The Club provides a highly valuable networking forum for Australian alumni sharing common values, aspirations and links to both Australia and Vietnam.

I strongly support the Club because it very effectively strengthens essential people-to-people links between Australia and Vietnam. I encourage you to join the Club and meet your alumni fellows, exchange your ideas and share your valuable experience by participating and attending the upcoming Gala in August 2005. Great fun and happy memories await you.

I would assure you of the commitment from AEI Vietnam to the Club. I am delighted to lend my personal support to your development as well.

Bettina Cooke
Counsellor (Education, Science & Training)
Australian Education International (AEI Vietnam)
Australian Embassy, Hanoi



Message from

VGAC National Chairman

Hi there!

On behalf of the VGAC, I would like to welcome you all and express our appreciation for your interest and support to this meaningful Bulletin – The KOOKABURRA CHATTER.

After its first establishment back in 1991 as a small alumni club under the Vietnamese Australian Friendship Association (VAFA), VGAC has been growing rapidly in terms of memberships, activities and reputation. Today, we may say that we are one of the largest and most active alumni associations in Vietnam. In fact, VGAC now has more than 3,500 registered alumni members across the country, under 5 chapters: Ha Noi, HCMC, Hue, Da Nang and Can Tho.

VGAC has undergone great changes for better in recent years. We not only get together for social networking but also for job opportunities, professional development, charity and donation. I'd like to emphasize this new objective of VGAC: professional development. Thus, VGAC has been aiming to organise several workshops, seminars that benefit the members as well as the industry, the society. The Tourism Industry Development Workshop that we successfully organised in HCMC and Ha Noi last June 2005 has proved the commitment and capacity of our VGAC at the new level. The workshop was greatly appreciated by the industry people as well as the media.

We need to thank our sponsors and especially AEI who helped us to achieve our goals and objectives through out the years. And it seems to be a very good chance for me to introduce to you Ms. Bettina Cooke, the new Australian Counsellor of Education, Science and Training, who will be leading AEI in Vietnam.

So, what have we done last year and the first half of this year?

We launched our VGAC Membership Card program in April 2004. If you haven't got one please contact Ms Chau – our National Coordinator. This membership card allows you to enjoy some discounts at over 100 outlets and most of them are "cay nha la vuon" (owned or associated with alumni). We also joined the "Chung Suc" program on the TV, it was a great fun and publicity (although we did not win!). We organised a Guitar Trek Charity Music Night where we enjoyed the music, met old friends and donated money to the HCMC Child Welfare. Ha Noi Chapter also arranged a very successful book donation with the coordination with MOVSA in Melbourne. And most important, we held a series of Gala Dinner in HCMC, Ha Noi, Hue/Da Nang and CanTho as our annual events.

For the coming activities, we do need your active involvement in many ways: you can become a committee member; or just join in the organising committee for a particular event that you are highly interested; or at least spread the word VGAC around and join the activities as a participant!

May I take this chance to wish you all good health, happiness and success.

Dr Ly Qui Trung
National Chairman of VGAC



An interview about Hanoi Gala, 2005

BIGGER! STRONGER! BETTER!



"Dear Ms.Phi,
Good evening from The Caravelle!
Just wanted to let you know how interesting the workshop was today. Great job....."

Above is just one in many compliments VGAC has received right after the tourism workshop on the 9th and 10th of June this year in HCMC and Hanoi. The workshop, mainly sponsored by AEI, has attracted hundreds of professionals from different tourism sectors with the presentation of 3 guest speakers from Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. More participants than we could ever expect! More media exposure than we could ever assume! Hang on! Some may think this only marks the beginning of VGAC's annual development plan to showcase the enthusiastic contribution of our club. What the majority agrees is that it has already marked the new powerful projection of this professionally recognized network.

With the passion to capitalize on this positive energy and successful positioning, VGAC has initiated planning for an upcoming series of workshop. Come on, VGAC members! You are the next key person in a VGAC workshop in your area of expertise! Be proud and be part of a bigger, stronger, better VGAC. What would be more meaningful than us sharing the pathway to success?

PHI NGUYEN
ACCOUNT DIRECTOR
XPR CAMPAIGNS



membership card Do you have one?

1. Dedication and enthusiasm of the staff that being in charge of developing the membership card program, reputation of the club has created a trendy and useful VGAC membership card, put in the wallets of many members.
2. With new more restaurants, stores... lining up in the list that accept VGAC Membership Card to enjoy discounts at their services, VGAC members are now welcome at places like Caravelle Hotel, Omni Saigon Hotel, AQ, Saito, Nam An Restaurants, Pho 24, Seventeen Saloon...and can shop with lower prices at Oxy Collection, Senti Collection, Son Hat...
3. The card is not only a fashionable thing in your wallet, but also a useful tool when shopping. With VGAC membership card you will spend more money, but you pay less, of course! A true fact is since you are a card holder you probably don't have to daily fix your eyes on the newspaper and TV advertisements for promotional discounts any more. Be sure that you always get special discounts from VGAC!!! So, don't wait any longer to register you a card. Why? Because this free program will only last until December 2005.
4. To possess one VGAC membership card is not something hard like climbing the highest mountain, it is but just as easy as you are a member of VGAC, simply dial (84-8) 8256560, email to vgac@vnn.vn, or go direct to VGAC office at 5B Ton Duc Thang St Dist. 1, HCMC.
5. Be tank-thinker, are you going to be the next VGAC membership card holder?



Nguyen Phi Dung
HCMC Chapter Chairman - VGAC

The VGAC health care program

For disadvantaged and disabled children



Being the sponsor and the organiser of this program in conjunction with co-organisers May Club, Voluntary Youth club and Youth Union of Hanoi Transportation Hospital, VGAC – Ha Noi chapter has implemented the project named "Health Consultancy /Care for Disadvantaged and Homeless Children" of which the main objectives are to provide essential knowledge of health self-care for disadvantaged/homeless children so that they can prevent and self-cure some normal diseases and adapt themselves better to their current living and working environment, to examine and cure them of normal diseases and to record their health status for later examination. The first VGAC health care program for disadvantaged and disabled children was held on 15 May ,2005 at Nguyen Truong To Secondary School in Ha Noi.

About 100 disadvantaged and disabled children including Agent Orange victims living in Hanoi were examined for their health condition. Their health states were recorded for further follow-up treatment and care. These children were also provided with medicines and gifts. The doctors participating in this program provided the children health care counseling and knowledge with the aim to help them prevent and self-care some normal diseases for themselves.

VGAC Hanoi is trying to bring back the smile to disadvantaged children!

VGAC Hanoi Chapter

Hue's Chapter

And its year full of activities



Responding to the appeal by the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (AOD) on support for the victims, Hue VGAC members have been conducting a number of activities, such as signing online petition to express support to the lawsuit against the US chemical companies, financially assisting the local AOD victims...etc.

Prior to the beginning of the lawsuit, all the members had sent their signatures to the website address of petitiononline.com/AOVN to support the campaign. Not only did take part themselves but they also encouraged their relatives to join in. As a result, over 200 signatures in total had sent to the international public.

Regarding the financial support, on behalf of the Chapter, the Chairman Nguyen Thanh Binh had recently handed over VND 3.5 million to the Provincial Red Cross.

At the moment, the fund raising is still getting underway. The Hue VGAC members hope that by their little support, they could speak out a justice voice and as the same time relieve the OA victims of their pain.

Nguyen Thanh Binh
VGAC Hue Chapter Chairman

Together for the better future!

VGAC Hanoi Chapter Gala

TOGETHER FOR THE BETTER FUTURE

Hanoi, Tuesday, 15th March, 2005



The Gala starts with the presentation of names of staff, Alumni, their names, and their university or college.

H.E. Mr. Joe Thuy expressed his appreciation for the achievement of the Hanoi Chapter and their contribution to the community, including trade, and his special thanks.

Addressing the event, Dr. Ly Quy Trung- National Chairman of VGAC also expressed his appreciation of this Gala and especially the new committee members of Hanoi Chapter who had expected to welcome further new committee members who would always be committed to the cause. On behalf of VGAC, Mr. Pham Quoc Tuong President of Australia -Vietnam Friendship Association which were collected as part of Gala ticket sales to Mr. Trinh Bang Hop, Director of International Cross Organization with the aim to help victims of Agent Orange victims. For the past year VGAC's specific objectives.

The joy-filled night in the ballroom featured a rich entertainment programs with a fantastic entertainment programs with a fantastic entertainment programs with a fantastic entertainment programs with a fantastic beverages and ice cream. Free drinks included beer and beverages provided by Foster Vietnam and ice cream from Aspen Trading Company were offered continuously during the night.



Opening the night with a fashion show featuring pop, rock, jazz songs.

Ending the entertainment with a fashion show featuring a combination of pop, rock, jazz songs.

AEI, Committee members presented a number of ideas and relevant fashion show from the fashion show from the fashion show from the fashion show as well as wild nature.

The ballroom's excellent service and the Hanoi, Minh Quang 02 return airplane ticket.

The blissful Gala event was a success for VGAC Hanoi Chapter.

VGAC FREQUENT FRIDAY NIGHT

VGAC has started a frequent gathering of VGAC Members at O.V Club, Equatorial Club. The first night was marked with a charity music night that was exclusively great with the band Guitar Trek last Friday, 18th March 05.



Gala on the night of 15 March, 2005

At 6 pm, at Sofitel Hanoi Hotel with warm welcome from VGAC Hanoi Chapter Committee Members and AEI of Australian institutions were happy to pick up sticky tags at the reception tables and filled them out with names of Australian institutions where they graduated or are studying. They could easily recognize their old friends, which made a close and warm atmosphere of VGAC's annual reunion.

Vietnam's Australian Ambassador to Vietnam made the opening speech as one of the hosts of the event. He praised the great efforts of VGAC in general and Hanoi Chapter in particular during the past year especially regarding the development of friendship ties and bilateral exchanges between two countries in various areas of culture, education and training between two. He thanked all sponsors who supported VGAC for this Gala with to Australian educational institutions.

With sincerest gratitude to all sponsors who have been working hard for the event and strengthening and advancing VGAC. The association handed over the cash donations, the International Relations Department, Vietnam Red Cross and other charitable activities have always been

provided a great deal of unlimited fine buffet food, from Australia Limited and Natural New Zealand



The entertainment program, Guitar Trek brought their fresh, innovative and popular guitar music to the night. The band members, Mr. Tung Duong and Ms. Thai Thuy Linh with their skills in both Vietnamese and English added new dynamic and lively atmosphere to the show.

The fashion show program was the fashion show with the "Wild Traces" collection of Celebrity House of. In her collection, Hang found inspiration from Australia's wild and energetic nature and people. Her collection was a successful combination of fashion and life applicable styles.

Members especially Ms. Cao Ngoc Anh a Deakin University alumnus supported the young designer with provision of materials. VGAC Hue Chapter Committee Members also provided a lot of useful and creative ideas for their successful Gala last year. And finally the collection recreated the image and emotions of Australian people of the outback country.

The excitement was roused again by the lucky draw with a lot of attractive prizes from sponsors such as Sofitel Plaza Trading Company with Sky Walker travel suitcases, 02 return airplane tickets to Malaysia of Malaysia Airways, tickets to Sydney of Vietnam Airlines.

ended after bringing a great and happy family reunion to VGAC Hanoi Chapter's members.

CAN THO

CHAPTER

Over the last two years, with productive assistance from VGAC, the Australian Alumni Association in Can Tho City called Can Tho Chapter has organized many activities which spreads VGAC image to a larger publicity and helps network many alumni in the Mekong delta areas. In 2003, with financial and spiritual supports from VGAC, the test "Explore Australia Day" was organised, which was mainly aimed at helping Can Tho University students to understand more about Australia as a country and its people.

In 2004, a gala for all Australian alumni in Can Tho City was organized at Saigon Cantho Hotel. The gala was a very good time for Australian alumni in Can Tho City to get together and get to know one another. Also in the Gala, an election for the new Executive Board of Can Tho Chapter was held and a board consisting of 6 members came into being; the chairman is Ms. Dang Thi Ngoc Lan, Deputy Director of Department of International Relations and Project Management of Can Tho University.

This year, there will be another VGAC Gala to be hosted in December. Since there is an increasing need to study abroad among the staff and students at the Mekong Delta, there will be a workshop on "Study in Australia and Introduction into ADS Scholarship" to be organised along with The Gala. This promises to benefit Can Tho Chapter a lot with the nature of the land "Learn and learn more..."

Dang Thi Ngoc Lan
Chairwoman
VGAC Can Tho Chapter

GHT

AND THE GUITAR TREK

held every last Friday of the month.
the performance from the Australian



With the new music of contemporary Australians rubs shoulders with Led Zeppelin, JS Bach, music of the Spanish masters, unbuttoned Brahms, the Beatles, the Greats of the Renaissance, George Gershwin, the Gypsy Kings and the sensuous rhythms of modern day Brazil.

With music at hearts, Guitar Trek's fresh, innovative and popular works, the band brought the participants to a place where sound barrier between different styles and tastes is broken.

Participants readily acknowledged the outstanding innovative significance of Guitar Trek's work and acclaimed for the extraordinary energy, assurance and musical quality of their playing.

Right after the concert was ended, there's a call of donating within the participants for the HCMC Child Welfare foundation; Making a long walk around the hall, with the quick adding up and calculation from VGAC National Coordinator, the cash collected was reported reached to VND 10 millions and was directly handed to the vice-chairwoman of HCMC Child Welfare Foundation.

Unforgettable night!

VGAC National Coordinator

10 best things about our VGAC from a THEN and NOW perspective

Through the eyes of an alumnus

Hi there,

As most of you may know VGAC traces its origin to the decision by Vietnam-Australia Friendship Association to establish a club for those who used to work or study in Australia. In early 2000, the club was revitalised by the effort of Australian Education International (AEI) and committed alumni. Five years have passed and let's look at 10 best things about our club NOW:

No	THEN - 2000	NOW - AUGUST 2005
1	From a small base of a couple of hundreds of alumni.	the total membership has reached over 3500 and become the biggest alumni club in Vietnam and one of the biggest in ASEAN.
2	From a temporary and seasonal structure (around gala time only).	the club has a permanent office managed by a national coordinator.
3	From a single activity of gala.	VGAC has a variety of activity, including galas, workshops, outdoor and sport activities.
4	From a fun and networking club only.	it has become highly socially responsible and shouldered the less fortunate: various charity programs to benefit disadvantaged people and students, e.g. agent orange donations, visual impaired people.
5	From a club known by only Australia-related organisations,	the club has now been widely recognised by the wider public: articles on various newspapers, workshops with participation of the wider public
6	From an email and mail communication system only.	the club is the first alumni club with an interactive internet website.
7	No membership and discount card.	first alumni club in Vietnam with membership and discount cards.
8	From a relatively limited number of funding sources,	VGAC now has been sponsored by not only by AEI and Australian education and training organisations but also by many Vietnamese and foreign invested businesses in Vietnam.
9	From a group of mostly single alumni in the standing committee.	Most of them have got married and have or will have kids!
10	Work hard and play hard club,	Work harder and play harder club!

Well done mates!

We got to give a big thank-you to AEI, and 2 national chairmen, Mr. Can Van Luc and Dr. Ly Qui Trung who contributed their valuable time not only to set directions but also made them happen.

So come on, VGAC needs you to develop further. Don't ask what VGAC can do for you but ask what you can do to make VGAC a better place for everyone!

Nguyen Nhu Chuong
Director, Student Recruitment, RMIT International University Vietnam
UTS alumnus

Về từ bên kia biển

Trong khi nhiều người chờ đợi tại sân bay chờ đợi máy bay cất cánh của lực lượng du học sinh VN, thì có một nhóm người đang cố chứng minh điều ngược lại: không những không bị ngại mà những người về từ bên kia biển còn trenh thủ... Lợi kéo những lượng chất xám đông kể về cho quê nhà. Đó là Câu lạc bộ cựu du học sinh Úc (VGAC - Vietnamese Graduates from Australia Club).

Anh Nguyễn Nhu/Chuong, giám đốc tuyển sinh của Trường ĐH Quốc tế RMIT VN, phòng xét tuyển 7 về trung tâm thành phố cho kịp cuộc họp của nhóm chuẩn bị hội thảo du lịch VN với ba vị khách mời là giáo sư hàng đầu của Úc vừa đến TP HCM, Anh nói cả nhóm đều xem đây là hoạt động thú vị gần gũi với tiếp xúc hợp những ai cũng vui. Toàn những người đang đảm nhận những vị trí chủ chốt của các tập đoàn lớn, những đây là lần đầu tiên nhóm tổ chức một chương trình mang

tâm vóc quốc gia nên cũng hồi... run. Điều may mắn là hội thảo "Phát triển ngành công nghiệp du lịch VN" đã diễn ra thành công ở cả Hà Nội và TP HCM. Đây là điểm khởi đầu của một hành trình dài mang những giáo sư Úc sang VN để giới thiệu và kỹ năng học tập về tập thể... "lợi nhất là bạn mình cũng đang làm được một điều gì đó có ích".
- Như Chuong báo.
VGAC được thành lập từ năm 2000 dưới sự hướng dẫn của Tổ chức Giáo dục quốc tế Úc (AEI - Australian Education International). Tiền thân là Câu lạc bộ Việt - Úc được thành lập

bởi Hội Hữu nghị Việt - Úc năm 1987. Hiện nay, VGAC đã mở rộng hoạt động tại năm thành phố lớn với lượng hội viên lên đến 3.500 người.

"Ban đầu, đến sinh hoạt chỉ để gặp gỡ bạn bè. An là những câu chuyện thời đi học xa xứ, sau đó có lần đọc mỗi công buổi, nên các anh chị đi trước bắt đầu thực hiện một số hoạt động. Ban đầu là những chuyến đi để người hội học về hoạt động triển khai ở Bình Châu, Phú Yên, Ninh Bình... Sau lớn dần lên thành những chương trình văn nghệ gây quỹ ủng hộ các nạn nhân chất độc da cam. Những hoạt động mà mình thích nhất ở hội chính là kinh doanh và thông tin. Các vấn đề về du học ở Úc những chương trình viết trợ chính phủ, có hội việc làm và những người là những gì quý giá mà bạn mình có thể tặng nhau". Chương nói đây hào hứng.
Hiện giờ, VGAC đang triển khai một kế hoạch mới: mỗi cựu du học sinh sẽ tài trợ học bổng cho một sinh viên nghèo năm sau. Với họ, đó là một trách nhiệm, một niềm hạnh phúc vì đã được học hành ở nước ngoài và trở về quê hương của họ để làm việc tại quê nhà.

T. NGUYỄN



VGAC tại Bình Châu

Alumi

Say...



"...I have joined in VGAC for a short time via a recommendation of my colleague. I am interested in VGAC's activities as well as highly appreciate chances that we all gather together, share experience, express some innovation and get in touch.... Thanks for this group as well as for members who have similar study background in Australia and full of new ideas in their mind... Although we are working in a wide range of industries, I do believe you all are successful now and then..."

Nguyen Thi Thu Phuong
The University of New South Wales

It was mid year of 04, I was quite beaten, stressed and worn out after 6 months or so with HSBC. I thought this was time to have something outside work where I could meet interesting people with similar background and perhaps having nothing to do with the bank. So there we go, I joined VGAC. The committee member was offered. Did not want to take it. Eventually I took it but feel like not doing much for the club until the "brainstorm" trip for Gala 05. I have made the right decision, I think.



Nguyen Thanh Ha
Melbourne University(2003)

"Dynamic, enthusiasm and teamwork" are what I felt about VGAC through the 1st time joining the brain storming trip at Phan Thiet.

No discrimination in age and career here. Everybody excitingly took part into the group's flow and volunteer contributing not only ideas and receiving tasks but also humor tales, witty jokes and play puzzles to relax and be fresh during the trip.

Join VGAC's activities to discover yourself and make friends with many alumni from various places and industries!"

Nguyen Thi My Phuong
The University of New South Wales

Mui Ne team-building trip was my first public activity with VGAC Ho Chi Minh City chapter. As an AEI representative, I have to work closely with the committee's members to ensure that we provide the most effective support for the club, and as a graduate from Australia, I share common memories and interests with my friends here. I feel comfortable with both roles, and am willing to contribute my best to the club's growth and reputation.



T. Tran Thu Huong
UTS, Humanities and Social Sciences

called Australian



The Sydney Harbour Bridge draws a light half-moon shape on the dark sky of a warm December night. The cruiser has just wrapped up a four-hour trip along Sydney harbour having docked near the Sydney Opera House. Still feeling a bit like rocking on waves we step back on the firm cemented square.

It was mid-night. The farewell trip held for international students has finished, but everyone seem not to be in the mood of going home. I and my friends know that this wonderful moment may not repeat, so we decide to walk around and take some more night shots to make the beautiful night longer.

Now two and a half year back in Vietnam, I still recall that night, the very moment I suddenly realised that Australia has given me something more than just a degree in Communications.

When I was asked to write about my study experience in Australia, my first thought was not about how hard the lectures and how tough the assignments were. It was not about how I struggled with homesickness, either. It was the Australian experience as an integrated whole: university, professors, classmates, Sydney life, new friends. It was the penetration into a new culture where you learn that there exist quite different values from your own.

And there is something more... you learn to accept and respect others' views and values while retaining yours, which, together with knowledge from lectures and books, helps me to build up a more flexible and co-operative attitude towards others, both at workplace and outside.

Anything good has to end, like that beautiful cruise. So did my master degree course in Australia. But the end of the study in Australia has opened a new horizon for every of us. For me, it marks the beginning of something I would call "my Australian attitude".

Huong Tran (Australian Education International Vietnam)

SOME

JOKES

An office manager arrives at his department and sees an employee sitting behind his desk, totally stressed out. He gives him the advice: "I went home every afternoon for two weeks and had myself pampered by my wife. It was fantastic, and it really helped; you should try it too!". Two weeks later, when the manager arrives at his department, he sees the man happy and full of energy at his desk. The faxes are piling up, and the computer is running at full speed. "I see you followed my advice". "I did", answers the employee. "It was great! By the way I didn't know you had such a nice house!".

Bernie was invited to his friend's home for dinner. Morris, the host, preceded every request to his wife by endearing terms, calling her Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc. Bernie looked at Morris and remarked, "That is really nice, that after all these years that you have been married, you keep calling your wife those pet names." Morris hung his head and whispered, "To tell the truth, I forgot her name three years ago."

A man and his wife are driving down the road when a cop pulls them over. The cop says to the man, "Do you know that you were speeding?" The man replies, "No sir, I didn't know I was speeding." The man's wife then yells, "Yes you did, you knew you were speeding I've been telling you to slow down for miles." "SHUT UP!" the man says to his wife, "Shut the hell up, just sit back and be quiet." Then the cop says, "well, since I've got you pulled over did you know that the tag on your license plate is expired?" "No Sir" the man replies, "I did not know that" "WHATEVER!" His wife yells, "I've been telling you to go get it up to date for 2 whole months now!" "Shut up" the man yells to his wife again! "Sit back and shut up, mind your own business!" Curious, the cop walks over to the woman's side of the car and asks her, "Does he always talk to you this way?" "No" she replies, "Only when he's drinking!".

Ho Chi Minh - Phan thiet

TRIP



The clock hand pointed at 7.00 am. A group of excited-looking people were putting their bags into a 25-seat van. Although it was hard to tell where they were heading, having with them an established photographer equipped with all kinds of shining cameras, and a group of professional-looking cameramen taking the shoots from very unusual angles, one thing was clear that the trip was promised to be exciting and memorable.

Yes, we VGAC committee members were traveling on a shaking van (due to continuous rhythm of laughter) to Phan Thiet.

Don't envy our sea swimming and sun-bathing yet since we are all going there with many tasks to accomplish in 1.5 weekend days - to prepare for the upcoming annual Gala in August. Indeed, the discussion began just after the car left AEI office car park and as soon as 25 Lotteria hamburgers were finished off. This year's gala marks an important milestone in VGAC's operation. It's the 5th annual gala. It should be even more successful, more professional than it have been in the past two years. The goal is there and everybody has his/her own hand to give. Such a spirit of team building could only be found in VGAC. How can we imagine less ebullient atmosphere for a journey with VGAC?

This year, the stories of VGAC past activities will be differently told. And thus, Mui Ne as chosen venue for the creative work and warm up activities was indeed hot, with or without the sun.

And there was video clip shooting in which Dr. Trung the chairman played his role very well in the first part, but had to repeat his acting a few times in the second part (breath-taken by the ladies, one would say). Then there was a lady in green who played some "questionable" role in which she just went up and down a stair case more than 10 turns. Hmm... let's wait for the video clip presentation to find out. Then there was this episode wherein everybody just had to sit and whisper and nod their heads, hiding their laughs in the smiling eyes.

Despite that fact that everybody had had a long night before, singing karaoke and dancing wildly, all appeared fresh and in their best shapes, especially that Mr. Chuong was really remarkable in his orange tie. Thus six faces were chosen as models for the nationally well-known photographer Duong Minh Long, who had to take several raw oysters the night before at Ngoc Suong Marine in order to keep up with the working pace of this dynamic group. And following up closely on every details to make sure things happen on schedule and no activities and faces are missed is Chau and a group of young university students with their two digital cameras always "on".

And even during this sweating "acting" and "modeling" job, committee members managed to discuss preparation and planning details for the coming activities as well. Bravo this working attitude! Bravo the "work hard, play harder" spirit! No wonder why most of VGAC members are established figures in both their career and life.

Smile and joy will be kept forever in everyone's mind who has ever been with VGAC. Welcome on board! Let's put the enthusiasm and passion in all we do and look forward to have YOU with us.

Dang Thien Anh
VGAC Committee Member

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