

Seeds of Hope program now officially launched in Vietnam!

As a significant milestone for the Seeds of Hope program, a **Launching Ceremony** took place on 27 September 2017. The formal event aimed to officially launch the project – though first activities started almost one year ago, in November 2016. The ceremony was also a good opportunity to share the activities progress so far, to plan for the next steps together with the project's partners, and to promote the role and meaning of vocational training.

At the heart of the ceremony was the **signing of the Execution Contracts**, a mutual commitment between IECD and the partner schools, detailing the project activities.

The **ceremony agenda** was also highlighted by short presentations about the project and a visit of Electrical and Automotive workshops at the hosting partner school, the Thu Duc College of Technology.

An important milestone formalizing the project...

Succinct speeches and presentations at the ceremony delivered clear ideas about the project. Following positive outcomes in Lebanon and other countries, the Seeds of Hope is now officially implemented in Vietnam, in partnership with the Thu Duc College of Technology (TDC) and the HCMC Technical and Economic College (HOTEC). The project aims at promoting **sustainable professional integration of young people** in the Electricity and Automotive maintenance sectors, with a target of 1400 impacted students by 2019.

Such understanding was later conveyed to wider audience, thanks to articles and news stories published after the event.

... with 60 attendees and interesting interactions

Representatives from **Schneider Electric** – one of the project's **financial and operational partners** – as well as from the **partner companies** that participated in the focus group held in June, joined IECD and the partner schools on this big day.

Ceremony participants also included representatives from **government bodies** such as City and District Departments of Education and Training (DOET); Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI); HCMC Union of Friendship Organizations (HUFO); and People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM).

IECD was very glad to welcome also **NGOs** representatives and **reporters** from national newspapers and channels.

During the presentations and dynamic exchanges, the partners expressed their interest in the project and reinforced their support to the activities. This paves the way for further partnerships and for fruitful collaborations in a win-win spirit.



IECD-TDC contract signing

« Schneider Electric is proud to support the Seeds of Hope project to promote sustainable professional integration of Vietnamese youths and to stimulate local development. »

Meriem Kellou – CSR Manager EA&J
Schneider Electric, Seeds of Hope partner



Representatives of Schneider Electric Vietnam at TDC's Electrical workshop

Thank you

We warmly thank **all the participants** for their support, for their attendance and for the interesting exchanges.

We would also like to send our sincere thanks to **TDC Management Board** members for hosting the event and for the support, as well as to all **TDC and HOTEC members** who worked closely with us on the planning and preparation.

Equipment Hand-over

The first two batches of equipment for electric workshops have been delivered to the schools:

- **Measurement devices** were handed over to HOTEV at a brief ceremony held at the school on August 17, and to TDC on August 18.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** items were handed over to TDC on September 28, and to HOTEV on October 2, with the objective to make sure the students work in a hazard-free environment and to raise their awareness about safety at the workplace.



What's next?

- ✓ Following the Focus Groups held in June, an **expert mission** for Electricity and Automotive teachers will be organized in November. The mission aims to support the teachers in improving training curricula by providing:
 - **Training** on the implementation of the **Competencies Based Approach**
 - **Workshops** to review and improve selected training modules
- ✓ **A survey** will be conducted among new students, in order for IECD and the schools to get a better understanding on students' background situation and to provide them with appropriate support. **Another study** to 2016 alumni will provide us with useful information regarding youths' professional integration one year after graduation.
- ✓ IECD will continue working with the schools on the overhaul of the equipment, focusing on the electrical safety of the workshops.

As of the beginning of October, HOTEV and TDC have successfully recruited **267 students** for both majors. A new school year has already started. We wish all the teachers and students a new exciting and productive year!

THE SEEDS OF HOPE PROGRAM IN VIETNAM IS SUPPORTED BY: