1. News from the Campus

- VGU was Honored with a Visit by Vietnam’s Deputy Prime Minister
- VGU Receives Laboratory Equipment
- Excellent Thesis of VGU Student in Germany Rewarded
- VGU Master Graduate Wins PhD Research Grant
- Kickoff-Activities in Praxis-Partnership Project
- Students of Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology Complete Their Industry Project
- New Executive Manager for the Vietnamese-German Transport Research Center
- Labor Union Founded at VGU
- Guests from Berlin on Fact-Finding Mission for Global Production Engineering

2. Events

- High School Students Visit VGU in Binh Duong
- CCC Management Minicourse with German and Vietnamese Students
- VGU is First Vietnamese University to offer SAP Simulation Game to its Students
- Vietnam Engineering Education Conference in Can Tho
- Tet and Farewell Dinner for former Head of Finance

3. Prospects and Dates

- VGU promoting Study Programs at Education Fairs
- Invitation to the “Day of the German Language”
1. News from the Campus

VGU was Honored with a Visit by Vietnam’s Deputy Prime Minister

On March 8, 2013, VGU was honored with a visit by Deputy Prime Minister, Prof. Dr. Nguyễn Thiên Nhân, who was accompanied by delegations from the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Construction, Bình Dương Province, and the National University HCMC. During the visit, Prof. Nhân visited classes and laboratories, and talked to the students and lecturers of VGU. He also discussed the teaching and research environment at VGU with the PhD students, research assistants, and Vietnamese and German professors. At the end of the visit, Prof. Nhân chaired a 2-hour meeting and heard reports on the latest development of VGU and explored ideas on how the Vietnamese and German sides could help VGU develop faster in the next stages.

Võ Minh Thái, Head of Marketing

From left to right: Deputy Prime Minister Prof. Nguyễn Thiên Nhân, VGU’s President Prof. Mallon, VGU’s Vice President Dr. Hà Thúc Viên, Deputy Minister Prof. Bùi Văn Ga

Prof. Nhân visits class and talks to students

VGU Receives Laboratory Equipment

VGU’s master study program Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology (MSST) received a permanent loan worth 80,000 euro from Festo Didactic. The company is one of VGU’s industrial partners and provides professional, industry-oriented qualification solutions for process and factory automation. Students and professors at VGU are now pleased to train with four automatic stations, where they can treat fluids with various production processes. The installation consists of a filter, a mixer, a reactor and a bottling station.

The Academic Coordinator for MSST, Prof. Dr. Joachim Lämmel, said: “The delivery of this installation is a result of our close connections with industry. We are very delighted to receive this modern laboratory equipment. The students are now able to conduct more relevance experiments in the laboratory.”

The automatic stations were officially handed over on March 26th by the two Festo representatives Volker Schmid (Head of Business Development Asia Pacific) and Johnny Ng (Managing Director). On that occasion, the first MSST-students were also given their training certificates from Festo, stating that they are able to program and operate the automation processes on the machine (picture on page 3).
Another delivery of new laboratory equipment reached the VGU in March. It contained electronic devices for the bachelor’s degree program Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (EEIT), such as oscilloscopes, signal generators, measurement bridges and other measurement units. The equipment has a value of about 366.000 euro. It is now being brought into service step by step. Vietnam’s Deputy Prime Minister, Prof. Dr. Nguyễn Thiên Nhân, already took a look at the devices on his visit in Bình Dương. Students and lecturers are excited to experiment and learn with the urgently needed modules.

Karina Scholz, PR-Officer, and Prof. Dr. Joachim Lämmel, Academic Coordinator for MSST

Excellent Thesis of VGU Student in Germany Rewarded

VGU’s bachelor graduate Nghê Chí Thành was awarded the Hans Messer Prize 2012 for his outstanding studies and examination results. The award was presented by the Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Germany. Together with Nghê Chí Thành, Miroslav Rasic, another student from VGU’s partner university, the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt, received the prize. The total prize money of 6,000 euro was shared equally by the two winners.

Mr. Thành is a bachelor graduate of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (EEIT). He spent his final study year at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt in Germany and now continues his master studies there. His supervisor was Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gernot Zimmer, EEIT Study Program Coordinator in Vietnam and professor at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt in Germany.

Mr. Thành is the first Vietnamese student to win the Hans Messer prize. With his graduation score of 1.4, he was one of the best students of his class. Now he is a tutor in Prof. Zimmer’s lectures in Frankfurt. The VGU Presidential board congratulates Mr. Thành on his great success.

In his bachelor thesis, Nghe developed a flexible test system for optical sensors, for which he received the top score of 1.0. He did his research for the thesis at Pepperl & Fuchs in Berlin, which is specialized in the development and manufacturing of electronic and optical sensors and components for the automation market. The award is given annually in honor of long-time Chamber of Commerce President Dr. Hans Messer. It was given on 6th February in Frankfurt, Germany.

Karina Scholz, PR-Officer
VGU Master Graduate Wins PhD Research Grant

Nguyễn Lữ Trong Khiêm, a recent graduate of VGU’s master program in Computational Engineering, has received a three year research grant for young academics and scientists doctoral candidates. With the grant provided by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Mr. Khiêm will pursue a PhD degree by doing a study on the "Application of Variational-Asymptotic Methods to a Set of Nonlinear Equations" under the guidance of Professor Lê Khánh Châu at Ruhr-University Bochum (RUB) in Germany. The RUB is a partner university of the Vietnamese-German University (VGU).

Mr. Khiêm graduated from VGU in 2012 with the best final average grade ever obtained in the Computational Engineering program, both at RUB and VGU. He published part of the results of his master thesis, which was supervised by Professor Lê Khánh Châu, in the scientific paper "Slope Modulation of Waves Governed by Sine-Gordon Equation" in the international journal "Communications in Nonlinear Science and Numerical Simulation" in 2013. Mr. Khiêm earned his Bachelor degree in Mathematics & Computer Sciences at the University of Science, HCM City, in 2010. VGU wishes him great success in his future career!

Dr. Jörg Franke, Academic Coordinator for Computational Engineering

Kickoff-Activities in Praxis-Partnership Project

The Praxis-Partnership Project is a jointly-sponsored project of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and three university partners (Leipzig University, Vietnamese - German University, Hanoi University Science of Technology) who jointly corporate in the implementation of the postgraduate study program “Master in Business Administration in SME Development” in 2012-2014.

The project is providing professional training for enterprises and entrepreneurs in Vietnam in the very significant issues, such as: Market-driven Innovation Management, Export Management and Service Engineering. All of the participants will have opportunities to be supported by SMILE (Self Management Initiative Leipzig), which was founded in 2006 and facilitates every year the creation of more than 40 new businesses. One important objective of this project proposal is to transfer the best practices of SMILE, in accordance with the partner’s needs, to Vietnam and therefore establish a similar entrepreneurship promotion approach at the Vietnamese partner universities which will lead in the long run to an even stronger cooperation between all initiatives.

In order to implement the praxis partnership successfully, VGU and the Small and Medium Sizes Promotion Training Program started on 26th February 2013 with the workshop “Innovation Management for Sustainable Development” in the Department of Meteorology and Quality Standard of Ho-Chi-Minh City’s People Committee. The workshop attracted 80 companies’ representatives in Innovation Management topics. As results of the workshop, a club for innovation management of entrepreneurs in Vietnam called the 225 Innovators Club was established and the website www.innovators.vn of the Praxis-Partnership Project was launched.
On April 24th, the Best Innovators Award will be kicked off by the Innovation Management Plan Training at the Department of Meteorology. The first meeting of the 225 Innovators Club will be organized in the same month on 27th April. The official launching of the 225 Innovators Club will held on 27th July.
All enterprises and entrepreneurs are welcome to participate in the Praxis-Partnership Project 2013.

Huỳnh Đình Thái Linh, MBA-Program Coordinator

Students of Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology Complete Their Industry Project
All of VGU’s students in the master program Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology (MSST) of intake 2011 have successfully completed their industry projects. These projects included a six-week-internship in the industry and are a part of the second academic year. The projects were presented at the final colloquium at the end of the last semester. The students presented the results of their research publicly.

The content of practical activities ranged from technical automation solutions in the chip industry by examining the durability of special fan belts to measuring and assessing the respiration of patients in hospitals. All students of the class work in the industry and complete the study in part-time. They have passed the exam with very good marks and are now in the process of preparing their master theses. It is expected that several of the students will be able to directly apply the results of their research in the future.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Lämmel, Academic Coordinator for MSST

New Executive Manager for the Vietnamese-German Transport Research Center
Dr. Vũ Anh Tuấn started in January as Executive Manager for the Vietnamese-German Transport Research Center (VGTRC). He is currently both a lecturer at VGU as well as an Executive Manager for the VGTRC.

Dr. Tuấn earned his Ph.D. and MSc. in Transport Planning and Traffic Engineering from the University of Tokyo, Japan. Prior to working for VGU, Dr. Tuấn worked as Research Fellow at Institute of Transport Policy Studies (ITPS) in Tokyo for three years. He served as a Research Associate at Asian Development Bank Institute (Tokyo) for years.

Before his graduate study in Japan, he was an assistant lecturer at Department of Civil Engineering, Hanoi University of Transport and Communications in Hanoi.

His research interest covers various topics, including sustainable transport system, transport planning and innovation, transport policies in developing countries, travel behavior analysis, highway design and capacity analysis, driver behavior analysis, road traffic safety.

The Presidential Board and staff of VGU welcome Dr. Tuấn and wish him all the best for his career and research at the VGTRC. The Director of the VGTRC is Prof. Manfred Boltze (TU Darmstadt), Co-director is Dr.-Ing. Khuat Viet Hung.

Karina Scholz, PR-Officer
Labor Union Founded at VGU
A labor union was founded at our university on 23rd of January 2013. This has been a goal since the VGU was established, so the Presidential Board and the staff members are pleased that it could be realized now.

An interim Executive Committee was nominated with VGU’s Vice President Dr. Ha Thuc Vien as Chairman and two members: Mrs. Hoàng Thị Thanh Vĩnh and Mrs. Nguyễn Hông Dũng. 26 members joined the labor union at its foundation.

Two guests from the Confederation of Labor of Ho-Chi-Minh-City participated in the foundation activities: The Deputy Head of Organizing, Mrs. Lê Thị Diễm Ngân, and the Officer for Education and Training, Mr. Nguyễn Đình Chiên. The VGU labor union wants to provide benefits for staff members, such as gifts for Tet, team building events and support for pregnant ladies. Also the staff members will be able to profit by getting to know each other through the labor union work and have some exchanges on business topics. The VGU labor union aims to become an important part of the Ho-Chi-Minh-City labor union system.

Karina Scholz, PR-Officer

Guests from Berlin on Fact-Finding Mission for Global Production Engineering
At the end of March, VGU welcomed two guests from the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin) on a fact-finding mission in Vietnam: Prof. Dr. Günther Seliger and Dr. Carsten Reise came to prepare for the new master program Global Production Engineering (GPE), which is estimated to start at VGU in the academic year 2013/2014.

The curriculum of GPE is designed for outstanding international graduate students seeking to improve their personal competence portfolio in the fields of production, management, engineering, and intercultural communication. To meet the growing challenges and opportunities in a globalized economy, the need for leaders with international perspective increases. In order to take global leadership in the dynamic world economy, knowledge in technological innovation, comprehensive management and intercultural skills are necessary. GPE accepts the challenge to comprehensively train engineers for work in international value chains with its program structure consisting of five modules: production, engineering, management, intercultural communication and special profile.

Prof. Seliger and Dr. Reise stayed one week to visit VGU’s locations and laboratories, to meet other coordinators and lecturers and to prepare the marketing campaign for the master program. Prof. Seliger will be the academic director for GPE. He will be supported by his member of staff, Dr. Reise.

Karina Scholz, PR-Officer
2. Events

High School Students Visit VGU in Binh Duong

On January 17th around 130 students from Gia Dinh High School in Ho-Chi-Minh City visited the VGU Campus in Binh Duong, where they received a presentation about VGU's programs and had a tour of the campus, led by VGU's bachelor students of 2011. Program Coordinator Henning Hilbert and Head of Marketing Võ Minh Thái introduced the university and its bachelor programs to the group of eleventh and twelfth graders. The students asked eager questions afterwards and some VGU students, who had volunteered to help, told some stories about student life in Binh Duong and in the dormitories. Afterwards the High School students were given a tour of the building and had a chance to examine laboratories, classrooms and other facilities.

Franca Schucht, Volunteer

CCC Management Minicourse with German and Vietnamese Students

After the success of last year, the software based business simulation game CCC Management (Campus Career Competition) took place for VGU’s bachelor students in the program Finance and Accounting. All 57 students participated in the optional class from 11th to 14th March. The simulation was about exploring business basics on the example of a textile factory. In seven teams, the students run a business in the textile industry and made decisions in the fields of Marketing, Finance, HR, Production, R&D, and Quality Management. Within the competitive market they managed their businesses function year after year and aligned their business strategies to their company’s financial objectives. By assuming the role of company directors, the participants learned the fundamentals of business management by their decisions.

The seminar was organized in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship School of the Technical University Dortmund and carried out by the business-educationalists Prof. Dr. Ewald Mittelstädt (University for Applied Sciences South Westfalia) and Prof. Dr. Claudia Wiepcke (University of Education Weingarten). Both professors look back on years of experience in teaching business simulation games in an intercultural context. They carried out similar workshops in Albania, China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia and Ukraine. This year, the professors brought seven German students from their classes to Vietnam. Through the formation of German-Vietnamese entrepreneurial teams all students enjoyed an intercultural experience and could strengthen their cultural competence and team working skills. The workshop was rounded by a round table with the chief representatives of the textile company Polaris Handelsgesellschaft mbH in Vietnam, Lukasz Slomka.

Karina Scholz, PR-Officer
VGU is First Vietnamese University to offer SAP Simulation Game to its Students

A very special class was held in March for students of VGU’s master program Business Information Systems (BIS): As part of a business simulation game, teams of students managed virtual enterprises and competed in a virtual market place. The simulation was run with the SAP Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

Thirty-three students of the BIS 2010 and 2011 intakes attended the optional class that ran for 36 hours over two weeks. The lecturer was Mr. Hieu Le, a graduate of the BIS program, who had undergone special training by SAP in Singapore to conduct the simulation game.

SAP skills are much sought-after in the industry in Vietnam and worldwide and students at VGU are keen to learn about such industry-relevant systems and platforms.

By participating in the simulation game, students learned about the SAP system in a playful way while also being able to practice the business skills that they have studied.

To be able to offer the modern SAP teaching tool to students, VGU hosts its own SAP system and accesses the simulation environment at the SAP University Competence Center in Queensland, Australia.

VGU has been a member of the SAP University Alliance since 2011.

Dr. Tim Reichert, Academic Coordinator for Business Information Systems

Vietnam Engineering Education Conference in Can Tho

On March 19-20th, a delegation of VGU took part in the Vietnam Engineering Education Conference "Transforming Boundaries through Innovation and Partnerships" in Can Tho, hosted by the Can Tho University. The forum was organized by the Higher Engineering Education Alliance Program (HEEAP) and aimed to bring together higher education, government and industry leaders to have a discussion on the development of engineering university education and vocational technical engineering programs in Vietnam. Altogether, there were 120 participants.

VGU’s President, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jürgen Mallon took part in a plenary session and gave a speech about VGU, entitled “Developing Bi-National Research and Innovation Collaborations in Science and Technology”. He was accompanied by Silke Heimlicher, Head of Strategic University Development and Committee Office, Dr.-Ing. Jörg Franke, Coordinator for M.Sc. Computational Engineering, Henning Hilbert, Coordinator for Study Programs and Language Center, and assistant Nguyên Mienen Thao. The VGU delegation reported that they had a great exchange with other representatives from Vietnamese universities about the education of engineers. In addition, they were able to establish contacts with important companies. The next Vietnam Engineering Education Conference will be in March 2014 in Ho-Chi-Minh-City.

HEEAP was founded by The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Intel Corporation and is partnered with Arizona State University’s Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering (ASU),
Portland State University’s Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science (PSU), and an expanding industry consortia who want to collaborate on the transformation and modernization of top engineering and technical vocational universities in Vietnam, including university leadership development, faculty development, curriculum innovation, and university engagement.

Karina Scholz, PR-Officer

Tet and Farewell Dinner for former Head of Finance
The VGU staff celebrated the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, Tet festival, with a festive dinner on February 1st. On that occasion Mr. Oliver Serfling, VGU’s former Head of Finance and VMU-Vice Director, was officially bid farewell to.

The President of VGU, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mallon, thanked Mr. Serfling for his almost three years of working for the VGU. In his speech, Mr. Serfling spoke about his memories of Vietnam and on the development of the VGU. It was both an enjoyable and sad evening for the staff. The faculty and staff of VGU wish Mr. Serfling all the best in his future.

3. Prospects and Dates

 VGU promoting Study Programs at Education Fairs
One of the marketing activities to recruit new bachelor students for the intake 2013 is promoting VGU’s brand name to high school students. In the past weeks and months, VGU has joined the education fairs in some of the best high schools in HCMC: Le Hong Phong high school for the gifted, Tran Dai Nghia high school for the gifted, Nguyen Huu Huan high school, Vo Thi Sau high school, Gia Dinh high school, Nguyen Thi Minh Khai high school, Tran Phu high school and Trung Hoc Thuc Hanh high school.
A number of well-known universities’ representatives in HCMC also joined the events.

Many students were interested in VGU’s programs and asked a lot of questions about the application requirements as well as the scholarship scheme. Some alumni from high schools studying at VGU as well as other enthusiastic students were very pleased to be volunteers to help advise the interested students at those events.

The latest opportunity to introduce VGU to future students was an Open Day in Binh Duong on April 6th. The bachelor and full time master programs were presented on this occasion.

Nguyen Thi Truc Giang, Marketing Executive
Invitation to the “Day of the German Language”
On Saturday, 13th April 2013 from 8 am to 1 pm VGU invites everybody to a day full of fun at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), where the “Day of the German language” (German title: “Tag der deutschen Sprache”) will be held. VGU as well as other institutions teaching German in HCMC will offer German food and language-based games for children and adults. There will also be music and theater presentations. Besides there will be alumni talking about their experiences in Germany and information being given about the different language centers in Ho-Chi-Minh City.
Come along, bring your fellow students, colleagues, friends and family and enjoy a nice day in the city with us. Location: USSH, 10-12 Dinh Tien Hoang, District1, HCMC.

Franca Schucht, Volunteer

Pictures: Vietnamese-German University (VGU)