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1. News from the Campus

Former German Minister of Education Visits VGU

The former German Minister of Education and Research, Mrs. Edelgard Bulmahn, recently visited our university to talk with our President, coordinators, professors and students. Mrs. Bulmahn is a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and is leading the so called “dialog for sustainability” between the Communist Party of Vietnam and the SPD in Germany. She was Minister of Education and Research from 1998 until 2005. Today, Mrs. Bulmahn is a member of the German Federal Parliament and member of the Committee of Foreign Affairs.

During her latest stay in Vietnam in December, Mrs. Bulmahn visited the VGU to talk with our President, Prof. Dr. Mallon, Vice-President Dr. Ha Thuc Vien, Finance and Accounting-coordinator Dr. Myriam Hadnes, Computational Engineering-coordinator Dr. Jörg Franke, study program coordinator Henning Hilbert and Dr.-Ing. Marlene Helfert from TU Darmstadt and Prof. Dr. Siegbert Erlenkämper from FH Frankfurt, who recently taught in Binh Duong. Also ten students were invited to report about their motivation to study at VGU and their experiences. Mrs. Bulmahn was especially interested to get to know the student’s impressions about VGU and therefore asked them many questions. She was well informed about the backgrounds of our university.

As the main topic of this exchange was the development of our university, Mrs. Bulmahn was also very interested in the future plans for VGU’s expansion. She took the opportunity to discuss the plans with our president, coordinators and professors. All VGU representatives were very glad to have met her.

Strategy Workshop for VGU

Four years after its first version, VGU’s Master Plan was evaluated and further developed during two workshops in Ho Chi Minh City and Berlin in November and December 2012. Participants were VGU-President Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mallon, VGU-Vice President Dr. Ha Thuc Vien, members of the Directors Board of VGU Consortium Prof. Reiner Anderl, Dr. Dietmar Erdmann, Prof. Gerhard Peter and Ms. Nicole Binder from VGU’s consortium office in Germany, as well as VGU Heads of Departments of Strategic Development, Marketing-, Finance and Academic Affairs.

The participants discussed the further development and strategies of VGU. They talked about the University’s main strategy and specialized orientation, the main research fields, the funding, the marketing- and the building situation of VGU. The updated version of the Master Plan will be presented to the University Council in May 2013.

As a conclusion of the two workshops, the presidential board and the director’s board of the VGU Consortium confirmed the main strategy of becoming a technical oriented research university, in accordance with the educational development strategy of the Vietnamese government.
The Consortium is the academic backbone of the Vietnamese-German University and one of the major stakeholders of VGU. Organized as a non-profit organization the Consortium consists of 32 members: 15 Universities, 16 Universities of Applied Sciences and the TU9 - the association of the leading research-oriented Universities of Technology in Germany.

**Evaluation of VGU’s Study Programs by DAAD**

On request of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), three experts assigned by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) have evaluated VGU’s first study programs which are already running at VGU for 3-4 years: MSc. Computational Engineering (RU Bochum), MSc. Business Information Systems (HS Heilbronn/HS Furtwangen), MSc. Mechatronics and Sensor System Technology (HS Karlsruhe) and BSc. Electrical Engineering & Information Technology (FH Frankfurt).

The evaluation took place from 09. to 11.12.2012. For a period of 3 days, Mr. Hans-Jürgen Simm, chancellor at University of Bielefeld, Prof. Dr. Reiner Dudziak from University of Applied Sciences Bochum and Prof. Gerald Lüttgen from University of Bamberg joined VGU’s regular lectures, and talked to the presidential board, professors, students, administration staff and industry representatives of Vietnam. The objective was to evaluate the quality of the running programs on the one hand, and the importance and acceptance of VGU in Vietnam on the other hand. The full evaluation report will be finished in March 2013.

**Former Hessian Minister of Science and the Arts Visits VGU**

The former Minister of Science and the Arts of the state of Hessen, Germany, recently visited our university. Prof. Dr. Evelies Mayer came to learn more about the current situation and the development of the VGU. Mrs. Mayer, a former professor for sociology, was Minister of Science and the Art in Hessen from 1991 to 1995. Among others responsibilities, she was also chairlady of the board of trustees at the Humboldt University in Berlin and is a member of the council for research-orientated equality of the TU Darmstadt. She is well known by the German science community and was very impressed with the development of our university.
Students Explore NanoLab of Vietnam’s National University

12 students from the Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology (MSST) intake 2012 recently had the chance to gain a rare insight into nanotechnology research when they visited the Laboratory for Nanotechnology (NanoLab) of the Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. This visit was initiated by Dr. Eric Fribourg-Blanc, who taught the course Technology of Sensors from November 11 to 23 at VGU.

Dr. Fribourg-Blanc is a scientist at the CEA Research Institute in Grenoble (France) and has worked quite a long time at the NanoLab, which was founded in 2004. He gave the students a tour through the Lab, which was a good addition to his previous lectures. The research at the NanoLab is focused on thin-layer sensors, for example photovoltaic cells or temperature sensors.

The students were especially impressed to see the clean rooms, where wafers, with a high level of purity, are produced, and to learn about the high-quality technology for the procedure.

MSST-coordinator Prof. Joachim Lämmel and Lab-Engineer Can Le Duy accompanied the group.

Sustainable Urban Development is Underway with New University Partner

At the start of the academic year 2012/13, an intake of 30 students had registered for the full-time Master program Sustainable Urban Development. In their first semester, the students studied with the Master program Traffic and Transport, to learn about the basics of urban planning. Now they can continue with their own major, which was recently developed in collaboration with TU Darmstadt, Germany.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim Linke from TU Darmstadt is the designated study program director of Sustainable Urban Development. Prof. Linke came to Vietnam in January for the final proceedings and also to prepare new courses for the students, which will start after the Tet holidays. Prof. Linke comes from the faculty of civil engineering like Prof. Manfred Boltze, who is in charge of the Master program Traffic and Transport. VGU welcomes Prof. Linke and wishes all students lots of success in their studies.

Foundation Year Studies

There are currently 93 Foundation Year students studying at our university. They are preparing for the bachelor programs Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (EEIT) and Finance and Accounting (FA). The students are studying English, to prepare for the IELTS test (International English Language Testing System), and also take courses in Engineering English and Business English, depending on their major. Foundation Year students take IELTS English courses in mixed groups, based on their English proficiency, and so get to make friends with students from the other program. The language courses are being taught by VGU’s language teachers.
The Foundation Year courses not only improve language skills, the students also take science courses, to prepare for their major subjects. Mathematics, physics, statistics and IT are taught by guest lecturers from well-recognized Vietnamese universities. All Foundation Year students of the intake 2012 live in the dormitories in Binh Duong. By the end of June, the Foundation Year will be finished and the young ladies and gentlemen can finally start their bachelor programs.

2. Events

Halloween Party
On Halloween, October 31st, 2012 a Halloween party, organized by and for the students of VGU, took place in Binh Duong. As always, the students put in a lot of effort to plan a wonderful afternoon for their fellow students, teachers and staff. The main part of the evening was performances by many students, from love ballads to Lady Gaga to a heavy metal band performance. A great atmosphere was created, supported by the creative decorations and costumed students. Some students even took part in a costume contest, which was won by a cowboy and a fairy.

Winners of the dress up contest

Lady Gaga cover performance
Students Test Their Knowledge about Germany

Two teams of VGU have won second and third prizes in a quiz about Germany, hosted by the German Department of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH) in Ho-Chi-Minh City. The “Deutschland Quiz” took place on November 03, 2012. The first winner was team “Adler” (eagle) from USSH.

VGU participants were ten students of VGU’s Financial & Accounting Bachelor class of 2011. Their contenders were teams from USSH and local high schools. Altogether, 30 students participated. They were tested on German history, culture, language and more. Tough questions like ‘who was Germany’s first chancellor?’ or about the works of the German writer Goethe could be answered well.

The jury was especially impressed by the creative performances on the German holidays of the two VGU’s teams named “Die Kinder” (the children) and “5 mảnh ghép” (5 components). The students performed traditional songs and scenes about St. Nikolaus and St. Martin.

The two teams had prepared very well and their singing qualities, acting and stage props were highly impressive. The event was set in a very motivated atmosphere, also due to many fans, students as well as teachers, who were supporting VGU. The „Deutschland Quiz“ has shown that VGU is not only becoming a leader in sciences but also in team building and creativity.

VGU students Win Prize in National Chess Tournament

Ngo Quang Huy and Pham Thanh Tu, both from Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (EEIT Intake 2012), won the 3rd place prize in the “National Ping Pong and Chess Tournament for Students”. Huy and Tu received the bronze medal in classical chess and the 3rd place prize in rapid chess. Congratulations!

The competition is organized once every two years. It took place from November 25 to 29 at the Danang University in Danang City. Huy and Tu were highly motivated to show a brilliant achievement for the VGU and to introduce our university to friends coming from many parts of Vietnam.

Participants came from universities across Vietnam, for example from Vietnam National University Hanoi, The University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Hue, Ho Chi Minh City University of Sport, Danang University of Physical Education and Sport, The University of Pedagogy and Sport in Hanoi and many more.

Altogether, more than 100 competitors attended the tournament.
Soccer Cup 2012
The third annual Soccer Cup of VGU was held at the Binh Duong Sports Center on December 8th. 12 Teams of VGU’s students and staff competed for the 1st place prize, but it was also a great team building and fun experience. During 22 games of 20-30 minutes each, the teams, consisting of 5 players and several substitutes, played fair and well. But in the end, there could only be one winner. After an exciting final in the afternoon heat, team Business Information Systems (BIS) 2012, a master class studying at the UFM Campus, won against team Traffic and Transport (TAT) 2012, a master class from the Binh Duong Campus. The bachelor program’s team Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (EEIT) 2011 took 3rd place.

It was a great opportunity for students from all of the VGU campuses, volunteers as well as teachers and staff to come together and spend some time on the soccer field, in the pool and in the shade.

Students celebrate Tropical Xmas
On Wednesday, 26th December 2012, a VGU student organized Xmas party was held at the Binh Duong campus with the participation of almost all students, many teachers and staff members. Creatively designed, detailed decorations, and beautifully dressed students made everyone feel the Christmas spirit right upon entering the hall. Festivities started with cake and drinks, that helped provide participants with enough energy for the exciting night. At about 18:30, after a short introduction, the event started with the traditional song “Silent Night”, performed by a large group of students in the three commonly used languages at VGU, German, English and Vietnamese.

The evening’s entertainment had participants alternately singing and dancing, and all enjoyed the warm atmosphere. Surprisingly, Santa Claus came to VGU this year, brought some gifts and spent a really long time talking to everyone. Individuals and groups with best performances in the baking contest (held before) were also awarded during the Christmas party. Many thanks to VGU’s students for organizing this great event.

3. Prospects and Dates

VGU’s Architectural Design Competition Jury Meets and Visits New Campus Location
At the beginning of December, the jury for VGU’s architectural design competition met and visited the 50,5 hectare property in Binh Duong province, where a new campus for VGU is planned to be built by 2017. The jury members received a briefing on the rules and organization of the competition. This step is important to
prepare everything for the competition. The jury members, who are famous international architects, gave their professional comments on the Request for Proposal. As soon as the competition officially starts, we will publish more information about the jurors and further events. Before the competition can commence, the World Bank needs to give its approval of the Request for Proposal. The bank is providing a funding of 180 million US Dollars to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the construction of the campus and another 20 Million US Dollars is being provided by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Information Campaign for Intake 2013 has started
On Jan 17th, 2013, VGU will have the pleasure of having over 100 students from Gia Dinh highschool visit VGU's Binh Duong campus. The students are coming to VGU to learn more about the study programs, the admission procedure, the scholarship schemes and the study environment. It is anticipated that many of these students will take part in VGU's own entrance examination in June, which is independent of the National University Entrance Exam and tests the aptitude of the students for each separate study program.

The next upcoming opportunity to introduce VGU to HCMC's high school students will be an education fair at HCMC University of Technology on 27th January, organized by Tuoi Tre Newspaper.

The first school visit in the high-school road show series started on 10th January, at Tran Phu High-School, and the students showed their interest and enthusiasm by asking many questions.