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1. News from the Campus

University Council Meeting takes place in Berlin
On 16th May 2013, VGU’s University Council met for the 5th time. After Ho-Chi-Minh City, Wiesbaden (2x) and Da Nang, this time Berlin was chosen as the location for the meeting. The council meeting was lead by the Chairman, Prof. Dr. Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, and Vice-Chairwoman Mrs. Eva Kühne-Hörmann, Minister of Higher Education, Research and the Arts of Hessen. Mr. Giang Quoc Dung, from Becamex was elected by the council as a new member. The council members from Vietnam and Germany discussed VGU’s strategic master plan, academic development, and financial topics. One of the outcomes was the foundation of an “Association of Friends and Supporters of VGU” to mobilize potential donors and further support for VGU’s development.

Ms. Silke Heimlicher, Head of Strategic University Development

Visit of General Secretary of DAAD
On the 8th and 9th of May, Dr. Dorothea Rüland, General Secretary of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) visited VGU together with Ms. Anke Stahl, who will take over the DAAD regional office in Hanoi starting in August 2013, Mr. Hans-Dieter Stell and Mr. Reimar Müller, Director of DAAD Information Center in Saigon. During their two day visit they discussed with President Mallon how DAAD could support the further development of VGU. The delegation also visited the VGU Campus Site in Binh Duong and was impressed by the facilities at the transitional campus in Eastern International University and student life in Binh Duong. Dr. Dorothea Rüland promised strong support from DAAD and wished the VGU all the best for its successful development.

Ms. Nicole Binder, Head of Professorship Appointment Procedure

VGU participates in Alumni Event of DAAD
On the 10th and 11th of May, the German Academic Exchange Program (DAAD) hosted a big Alumni meeting in Hanoi where VGU’s President, Professor Jürgen Mallon, had participated as a lecturer. Since the DAAD in Hanoi is celebrating its 10th birthday this year, they invited 425 Alumni, as well as special guests like former education minister Miss Edelgard Bulmahn, the German ambassador Miss Jutta Frasch, and Dr. Dorothea Rüland, General Secretary of DAAD. Workshops around a sustainable future for the Exchange Program between Vietnam and Germany were held by Vietnamese and German lecturers. Professor Mallon held a speech on “Career opportunities at New Model University” and VGU’s Vice President Dr. Vien, who has done his PhD with DAAD support at Humboldt University in Berlin, participated as a DAAD alumnus. Professor Mallon presented attractive career opportunities at the young university in the academic field as well as in administrative field. For participants interested in VGU’s opportunities Mr. Henning Hilbert, Program Coordinator at VGU, had set up an information booth at the event. The DAAD has been a close partner of VGU from the beginning, and has been especially helpful cooperating in the Exchange Programs to Germany which VGU offers to their students. We present our congratulations for their great work over the past 10 years in Vietnam!
Professorship Appointment Procedures supported by Nicole Binder

From April to June, Nicole Binder was an effective member of our staff, sent by the German Consortium (VGU Konsortialverein) and DAAD to support the development of professorship appointment procedures at VGU. As the Head of the Coordination Office of the German Consortium in Bonn she came to VGU and was placed in charge of implementing the appointment procedure for the first announced professorships and creating the working process for further professorship appointment procedures. During her time at VGU, she developed a number of organization tools, templates, guidelines and evaluation sheets for the professorship appointment procedure at VGU.

The first six professorships were announced in February. After the deadline for applications the Search and Nomination Committee, chaired by VGU’s president and six members (three each from Germany and Vietnam) evaluated the incoming applications and will now invite the best qualified candidates for a trial lecture. The first trial lectures and interviews will be carried out in July. VGU wants to soon employ its first professors. Currently most of the lectures are given by German professors who fly in for two or more weeks. VGU is looking for candidates with excellent doctorates, outstanding academic records, including publications in international, peer-reviewed journals, and proven teaching experience.

Since May, Nicole Binder has been familiarizing Ms. Hoang Thu Nga with the VGU’s appointment procedure, who will continue this task from beginning of July. The next announcement for professors has already being made in June and the process will be continued in July to fill ten further vacancies for associate professors and lecturers. Information about the vacancies can be found on VGU’s website http://www.vgu.edu.vn/info/jobs-at-vgu/academic-positions/. We would appreciate it if you could support VGU by forwarding the information to qualified candidates.

Ms. Franca Schucht, Volunteer and
Ms. Thao Nguyen Mien, Assistant of the President
Successful Entrance Examination 2013

On the weekend of the 8th and 9th of June the annual VGU Entrance Examination for Bachelor programs were held. VGU is the only state university in Vietnam, which is allowed to do their own examination. We use the TestAs, designed by “ITB Consulting GmbH und Gesellschaft für Akademische Studienvorbereitung und Testentwicklung e. V.” in Germany. To ensure a smooth operation, the whole staff team of VGU worked on different tasks for that weekend. All in all 148 applicants for Finance & Accounting, 103 applicants for Electrical Engineering and Information Technology and 36 applicants for Computer Sciences took part in the examination, which consisted of a general part, the core test, in the morning and a subject specific test for the study programs in the afternoon. The students will receive their acceptance letters at the end of June 2013, so they will know the results before the national entrance exam. The Entrance Examination at VGU has been conducted annually since 2010 and, in the opinions of teachers and professors, chooses excellent students. Besides the TestAs examination, the students took a computer based English placement test, the “On-Screen” test, which ensures that they have the necessary English skills to study at VGU. This test took place in the computer labs of the MOET building at Ho Con Rua. The Entrance Examinations for our Master programs take place in June and July whereas the English Preparation Courses for our future Master students already started.

News from VGTRC

The Vietnamese German Transport Research Center was established in 2010 as a cooperation between Darmstadt University of Technology (TU Darmstadt), University of Transport and Communications (UTC), and Vietnamese-German University (VGU). VGTRC aims to conduct research and development activities in the field of traffic and transport, and to guide researchers towards their doctoral degree. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Manfred Boltze of TU Darmstadt acts as the director and Co-Director Dr. Vu Anh Tuan has been working in the Research Center in Binh Duong since January 2013. All in all 8 Doctoral Candidates are currently working at VGTRC and the following two candidates will introduce themselves and their research topics:

Ms. Nguyen Thi Cam Van, M.Sc
Ms. Nguyen Thi Cam Van has been working on her PH.D since May 2011 under the research topic “Strategies for Integrated Urban and Transport Development in Motorcycle Dependent Cities”.
In Asian cities, the dominance of motorcycles has caused problems of increased congestion, accidents, and pollutions. Major causes are inadequate land-use
development, over-utilization of private modes, and inadequate public transport services. Her research aims to examine the interrelations between urban and transport development and design and evaluate integrated strategies for sustainable urban transport development in those cities. Ho-Chi-Minh City was selected as a case study. A household survey was conducted in 2012 to understand the existing accessibility and mobility conditions. Based on the result, traffic management measures and key elements of urban planning were recommended to improve urban accessibility and support sustainable urban transport development for the city.

Ms. An Minh Ngoc, M.Sc
Ms. An Minh Ngoc has been working on her Ph.D since August 2010 researching the following topic: “Quality Management for Public Transport in Motorcycle Dependent Cities”. Public transport, mainly buses, currently serves a small share of the total travel demand (just 10%) due to poor service quality and a lack of quality control and assurance. Ngoc’s research aims to develop a system of quality management and a set of quality criteria for public transport system in Vietnamese cities. A hearing survey on bus users in Hanoi City showed that improvements in service frequency, fare, vehicle quality and coverage might be not enough to satisfy the needs of the users. In fact, the customers demand for better information, on-board security and customer-friendly behavior of the service staff. A recommendation on how to measure public transport service quality was made based on the survey result.

**Master Student pursues research at University Karlsruhe**

Since February 2013 VGU’s Master student Tran Thai Son of Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology (MSST) has been attending the University of Applied Sciences in Karlsruhe, Germany in preparation of his Master Thesis. There he carries out measurements in the Analytical Laboratory, which he was not yet able to perform at VGU. Mr. Tran personally arranged for the transport of the water samples from Vietnam to Germany so the measurements could be done successfully. His Mentor, Prof. Dr. Jan Hoinkis belongs to the Flying Faculty of Karlsruhe and holds lectures about Environmental Process Technology at VGU.

**EEIT students visit MSST program in Karlsruhe**

Monday, May 13th the students of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (EEIT) 2009, who have completed their exchange semester in Germany, visited the University of Applied Sciences in Karlsruhe. The students have been studying at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt where they attended lectures, did research and will soon start their Bachelor Thesis. Prof. Dr. Zimmer, their coordinator in Frankfurt, accompanied them to Karlsruhe. In Karlsruhe they were welcomed by the professors of the Flying Faculty of VGU, who showed them around the University and introduced them to their master program Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology (MSST). They also visited the laboratories of the university to get to know about the practical site of the program. The goal of the event was to communicate information about the program to convince the students to continue their studies in Vietnam at VGU with the Master program MSST. On their way back to Frankfurt the students certainly discussed the topic in full matter. In 2012, ten students of the last intake took advantage of this opportunity and are now studying MSST at VGU.

Professor Mr. Joachim Lämmel, Coordinator of EEIT
News from the Language Department

The Language department of VGU in Binh Duong is constantly working hard on improving the German and English proficiency level of VGU students. Using a modern communicative teaching style, the English Level of Foundation Year students is greatly improved and VGU’s Bachelor students acquire basic proficiency in German.

One of the main tasks of our five experienced English teachers is preparing the Foundation Year students, over the course of one year, for the start of their real Bachelor programs. The main focus of the English language instruction is IELTS preparation, which showed great success this year with more than half of our students reaching an IELTS level of more than the required 6.0. VGU would like to especially recognize Trần Duy Khôi of EEIT 2012 and Võ Kha Quốc Hoàng of FA 2012 who reached 8.0 and received special certifications from the British Council. Beside IELTS training, different courses of Academic English are offered, such as Note Taking Skills, Academic Writing and Presentation Skills.

Our students of Finance & Accounting take part in the “Bachelor meets Business” program, where they regularly visit German companies, such as Lufthansa and Deutsche Bank. Their presentations and English skills highly impressed the company’s leaders. Besides Business English for the Finance students, VGU also offers Engineering English for our EEIT students, which consists of a mixture of training in engineering vocabulary and practical engineering writing and hands on projects. Our Master students learn English, in addition to their studies, to help prepare them for the IELTS exam.

All our bachelor students study German for six periods per week. This works well due to the cooperation of the motivated German teachers of the German Department of USSH and two native speaking German teachers who support the classes.

Mr. Henning Hilbert, Program Coordinator

International Students at VGU

In the past semester we have had two new students from abroad studying and researching at VGU in Binh Duong. We want to introduce them to you now.

Mr. Alexander Bongartz is an exchange student from Germany, currently studying Finance & Accounting with the intake 2011 students. He came to VGU in April from his university, the Neuss University for International Business, where he studies Logistics & Supply Chain Management. His opinion about VGU and his study program so far is that it is a great chance for young, ambitious Vietnamese students. He lives in Ho-Chi-Minh city and is commuting to Binh Duong everyday so he can enjoy the advantages of living in a big city in his free time. He enjoys his life in Vietnam so far, especially the feeling of living in such a booming country. “Everywhere you see huge building projects and everyone wants to set up a business. You don’t see that in Germany”, he says.

Mr. Przemek Gaczoł is currently doing an internship at the Vietnamese-German Transport Research Center (VGTRC), where he is assisting in research on transport accessibility in Ho-Chi-Minh City and other cities. He is attending Cornell University in Ithaca, New York where he is studying for his Masters degree in urban planning. Two years ago he participated in a study-abroad program at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho-Chi-Minh City. Since then he has been studying the Vietnamese language and would like to return to work in Vietnam full time. He intends to use his research at VGTRC as the foundation for his master’s thesis next year.

Ms. Franca Schucht, Volunteer
Welcoming new Staff at VGU
In May several positions were filled with new personnel. Miss Hoang Thu Nga was appointed Officer for Professorship Appointment Procedures and will take over Miss Nicole Binder’s tasks beginning of July. Miss Nguyen Hoang Thao Uyen is a new member of the Marketing Team in Thu Duc. Mister Dao Quoc Hung is the new Head of IT and started his work in June. We wish all newcomers a warm welcome at VGU!

Ms. Franca Schucht, Volunteer

2. Events

VGU holds EProCon 2013
VGU Embedded Programming Contest (EProCon) is an annual contest held by VGU Robotics and Electronics Club (REC) in which the contestants are required to program an embedded system controlling a robotic device to perform multiple tasks. This year is the first year EProCon was held at VGU. With the topic “BCR – Charge your Passion”, the contest aimed at improving last year’s surprisingly good performance of VGU teams at BKIT Car Rally (BCR) 2012 and equipping freshman members with the basic knowledge of embedded programming for a line following robot.

The line following robot model is loosely based on the Japanese Micom Car Rally (MCR): the microcontroller cars must follow a white line on a black background, overcoming obstacles like lane-switching, crank turns and S-curves. The time taken for each car to complete its turn is recorded using a timer starting gate.

On May 30th 2013, 11 teams from VGU, 2 from EEIT 2011 and 9 from EEIT 2012, competed in the racing round of EProCon 2013. Close friends at school became rivals, all wanting to claim the title of EProCon 2013 Racing Champion. Nguyen Doan Quang Khoi, head of the organizing board said “There have been a lot of new and innovative algorithms being invented and applied. It’s hard to believe most of the teams competing this year are freshmen”.

After 2 hours of intense racing, VGU.MasterYi won the championship, followed by VGU.Pegasus at the second place and VGU.ThunderX1 at the third place.

Mr. Dinh Quoc Huy, Student of EEIT2011

A car preparing to do a lane-switching

Mr. Richard Bradley, founder of VGU Robotics and Electronics Club, announcing the start of the contest
VGU's Got Talent 2013

“VGU’s Got Talent” is a contest which was first created in 2012 by VGU’s students and staff. In 2013, the Students PR & Events Team - PRESTO were in charge of organizing the competition. “VGU’s Got Talent” is a playground for all VGU’s students and staffs. It is a once-a-year opportunity for everyone at VGU to show off their talents, spend time together, reinforce old relationship and meet new friends. Moreover, “VGU’s Got Talent” also encourages artistic activities within VGU, which is very important and wholesome for all students.

This year, 18 groups and individuals from both intakes 2012 and 2011 competed with each other in 2 rounds at Binh Duong campus. The 10 best performances were chosen to the final round on 15.05.2013. All of them had to convince the audience, the judges, VGU’s staffs and teachers, as well as special guests that theirs was the best performance in order to win their votes.

The dancing team comprised of five members whose leader was Cao Nguyên Khai, won the first prize. An extremely persuasive dancing performance with excellent moves proved their seriousness, hard work and team spirit in a unique combination of dancers from both the 2011 and 2012 intakes. Phan Hoang Dung from EEIT-2012, who contributed a magic performance, won the second prize. FA-2011 should be proud of Nguyen Minh Vuong, who won the third prize with a sweet Vietnamese love song.

It was an amazing show. The performers won viewers’ hearts both by their talents and definitely by their determination and bravery.

Mr. Nguyen Duc Hieu, Student of EEIT2011 and Ms. Le Thi Hanh, Student Affairs Officer

VGU wins the German Singing Contest 2013

VGU’s Team “Flugschiff 716” has won the first prize of the German Singing Contest 2013 in Ho Chi Minh City. The event took place on Saturday, May 4th at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH) and was hosted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for the fourth time.
VGU students from the bachelor programs Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (EEIT) and Finance and Accounting (FA) from intake 2011 and 2012 participated in two teams. Besides VGU, teams from the Goethe Institute, the German Department of USHH as well as two High Schools sang two to three songs to impress the jury with their talent. The VGU Teams, named “VGU.Eine für Alle” and “Flugschiff716” did a good job impressing the audience and jury with their funny performances and great singing but in the end only “Flugschiff716” could make it into the final round. They sang “Halt mich an mir fest” by Revolverheld and “Leuchtturm” by Nena. And in the final they convinced everyone that they were the best team and won the first prize. The team members of “Flugschiff 716”, Bùi Thành Nguyên, Pha ơn Thiên Ân, Nguyễn Thế Hải Châu, and Nguyễn Ngọc Xuân Trang, won an iPod each and a great deal of honor. VGU is very proud of its two very talented teams and wishes to recognize them for their great effort.

Ms. Franca Schucht, Volunteer

Music Exchange between VGU and University of Economics and Law

On Wednesday, 29th May at the Vietnamese-German University in Binh Duong New City, VGU students had a chance to meet and make friends with students from the Business Administration Bachelor program of the University of Economics and Law (UEL) for the first time in the “Keep calm and Join us” music exchange. The event was hosted by the Music Club of VGU with support from the “SoYouShine” club and “Wind Acoustic” club. Besides “Đvn407”, the performance team from UEL also made a great contribution to the success of the event. Together, students from VGU and UEL shared their stories, immersed themselves in great music performances, enjoyed inspiring dances and played interesting games. It seemed that the long trip by motorbikes from the Vietnamese National University to VGU was nothing for the UEL students as a thank to VGU students for their hospitality. The event was a great success and all of the students enjoyed themselves to the fullest. At the end, the chief organizers from VGU and UEL together made a promise to hold future events and continue to develop the friendship between two universities.

Participants of the Music Exchange

Mr. Cao Nguyen Khai, Student of Finance & Accounting 2011
VGU participates at “Day of the German Language”

The “Day of German Language” event on 13 April 2013 was a resounding success with 400 people enjoying a great morning of learning and physical activities as well as food and drinks at USSH. The event was organized for the first time and had institutions such as the Goethe Institute, the German department of USSH, the DAAD and VGU participating.

During the event you could witness a German staff member of USSH tried to express his ideas in Vietnamese, and in the crowd some Vietnamese students were talking in German with their professors. All were taking part in the cultural exchange with smiles and laughter. The purpose of this event was to promote German learning. Therefore, exhibitors brought some games so the students could practice their German language skills and be rewarded with some little prizes.

German food was also offered, like the “Berliner” pastry, potato salad and “Bratwurst”. VGU’s stand offered typical German soft drinks like “Spezi” as well as informative material and a memory game which were all well received. In addition to the many happy faces, several participants wore VGU shirts that day showing their pride in our university. Like all of the other institutions, VGU was successful in building up excitement among the students with some German language learning games and emotional renditions of some English and German songs.

The event was a great success and helped arouse public interest in German learning and raise public awareness of the bilateral development cooperation between Vietnam and Germany.

Mr. Nguyen Minh Phuong Nam, former Student Affairs assistant
3. Prospects and Dates

6th International Symposium on Computational Wind Engineering 2014 to be held in Germany

Since 1992 the CWE conference series is representing the world's largest international conference on the application of computing in wind engineering, and in 2014 the symposium will for the first time ever take place in Germany, organized by the German Wind Engineering Community under the auspices of the International Organization of Wind Engineering (IAWE) and hosted by the University of Hamburg. VGU is involved in the organization of the symposium through the membership of Dr. Franke, Academic Coordinator for the Master’s program Computational Engineering, in the Organization Committee. Submission of short abstracts is possible until September 15 and the registration will open in December. Detailed information is available from the conference homepage http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/cwe2014/index.html.

Mr. Joerg Franke, Coordinator of CompEng