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1. News from the Campus

VGU welcomes new students

With the start of the Academic Year 2012/13 there are more than 500 students enrolled at our university. The Presidential Board and staff of VGU extend a warm welcome to all freshmen.

The bachelor program Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (EEIT) starts with 41 new students. Altogether, there are now 150 students enrolled in this program.

52 freshmen begin to study the bachelor program Finance and Accounting (FA). Together with the first intake, now 112 students are enrolled in this program. All new bachelor students are now studying in their foundation year at the Binh Duong Campus and the post-graduate students are also being taught in Binh Duong.

The bachelor students successfully passed VGU’s own entrance test in June. There were 300 applicants of which the Top 90 now study at VGU. The VGU’s entrance test, named “TestAs”, is a German Test for Academic studies and is independent of the national university entrance exam in Vietnam.

The master programs also are growing. Computational Engineering (CompEng) has 11 new students, an increase to 29 in total.

19 students enrolled in Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology (MSST). Now there are 40 students altogether in this program; 10 of them were the first bachelor graduates of VGU and the first VGU-students ever. The MSST-students are recently taught in Thu Duc until 2013.

Sustainable Urban Planning (SUP) is starting with 33 students, Traffic and Transport (TaT) with 13 students, and 26 new students enrolled at Business Information Systems (BIS), which increases the total number of students in this program up to 103.

The new program Master of Business Administration (MBA SEPT), specializing in small and medium enterprises development, starts with 32 students. In addition, VGU has 14 PhD students.

The BIS- and MBA part-time students are being taught at the city location at the University of Finance and Marketing (UFM) near the airport. VGU uses five classrooms on the third floor. There are now altogether 240 students and PhD candidates living in the dormitories in Binh Duong.
Master study program Banking and Finance is planned

VGU and the VietinBank signed an agreement to establish a Master study program called Banking and Finance. VietinBank was founded in 1988 after being separated from the State Bank of Vietnam. As one of the leading commercial banks of Vietnam it has around 18.000 employees and has branches in Frankfurt and Berlin.

The Master study program is expected to start in October 2013. The VGU-President Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mallon and the Chief Executive Officer of VietinBank, Mr. Nguyen Van Thang, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on October 4th 2012 in Hanoi. The ceremony was witnessed by the Minister-President of Hessen, Mr. Volker Bouffier, the German Ambassador Mrs. Jutta Frasch and the Chairman of VietinBank, Dr. Pham Huy Hung.

The program will target high-potential staff of VietinBank and external Bachelor graduates with the aim of proposing employment for graduates of the study program at VietinBank. Students will presumably start to study at the VietinBank Human Resource Development and Training School campus in Hanoi.

New program in the fields of Sustainable Urban Planning

With the new academic year, an intake of 30 students has registered for a full-time Master program in the fields of Sustainable Urban Planning. In their first semester the students will participate in the Master program of Traffic and Transport and learn about the basics of urban planning, and afterwards continue with their own major which is currently developed in collaboration with TU Darmstadt, faculty of civil engineering.

The high number of enrollments is enjoyable and shows the importance and the high demand of this study and research field in Vietnam. The VGU Presidential Board would like to thank the former program coordinator Prof. Dr. Karl Klügel for his work. Prof. Klügel left the VGU at the end of this summer semester to meet new challenges.
2. Events

VGU celebrates Opening of the Academic Year 2012/13 and Graduation Ceremony

Students and staff of VGU were happy to celebrate the Opening Ceremony of VGU’s Academic Year 2012/13 and Graduation Ceremony. Both took place on Saturday, October 6, in Binh Duong New City.

Special guest was the Minister-President of Hessen (Germany), Volker Bouffier. He visited VGU with a delegation of 30 representatives from science and politics from Germany. Also the Vietnamese Minister of Education and Training, Prof. Pham Vu Luan and the Vice-Minister Prof. Bui Van Ga attended the Ceremony.

Together Mr. Bouffier, Prof. Luan and President Prof. Mallon awarded diplomas to the bachelor and master graduates.

Nearly 50 students received their bachelor or master degree. Among them were the very first VGU students who started in EEIT in 2008. Congratulations!

The VGU-President, Prof. Jürgen Mallon, welcomed the nearly 200 new students and congratulated the graduates.

President Mallon opened the Academic Year with the beating of the drum at the VGU building in Binh Duong New City. There, everybody also took a look at the open house exhibition of VGU’s study programs.

EEIT Graduates of intake 2008 at the Ceremony
VGU goes business

The VGU was present at the German-Vietnamese Business Conference, organized by the Delegate of German Industry and Commerce Vietnam and the German Business Association. The conference was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Ho-Chi-Minh-City on September 19, 2012. Around 400 participants listened to the panel discussions.

A special guest was the German Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, Mr. Philipp Rösler. He spoke about the strategic partnership of Vietnam Germany and said, he hopes that this partnership will lead to a deep friendship.

VGU-Coordinator for BA Finance and Accounting, Dr. Myriam Hadnes, successfully moderated one panel about the impact of vocational training and education for innovation and economic growth.

The discussion attracted the audience's interest in VGU and its study programs. After that, Myriam made lots of new contacts with people interested in VGU.

So did the Marketing department: Vo Minh Thai, Nguyễn Thị Trúc Giang and Karina Scholz presented VGU at a stand in the foyer. Visitors could pick up brochures about VGU and ask questions. Many people were interested in the study programs and also asked about the progress of the future campus in Binh Duong. It was a successful day to heighten VGU’s profile.

VGU meets German Minister of Economics and Technology at Bosch Engineering Center

At his visit in Ho-Chi-Minh-City on September 9, the German Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, Mr. Philipp Rösler, also came to see the Bosch Engineering Center, where three students of VGU already wrote their master-thesis.

Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Vietnam Co., Ltd, is the first software and engineering center of Bosch in Southeast Asia. It provides hi-tech software and engineering solutions such as embedded software and mechanical design, as well as IT and IT-enabled services for Vietnam and the region.

On the occasion of Mr. Rösler’s visit, several young engineers presented their master-thesis at the Center. From VGU, Mr. Trần Tuấn Minh, who is now Academic Assistant at VGU and Post-graduate of Computational Engineering, presented his work. He was accompanied by the Study Program Coordinator, Mr. Henning Hilbert. Besides the three students, who wrote their master-thesis at the Bosch Center, some VGU-students have also found jobs there or have worked there in the past.
University Council meeting in Danang
As a preparation for this year’s second university council meeting, a large number of council members as well as guests from German universities and the state of Hessen took the opportunity to visit VGU’s current interim campus and the future location in Binh Duong Province. After that, the council meeting took place in the coastal city of Danang on August 31, 2012.

The council meeting was lead by Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam, Prof. Dr. Pham Vu Luan, and Minister of Higher Education, Research and the Arts of Hessen, Mrs. Eva Kühne-Hörmann.

The agenda contained many current topics, such as the establishment of new study programs in 2013, academic capacity building and research funding.

The university council also appointed VGU’s new Vice-president, Dr. Ha Thuc Vien, who was former Head of Department of Natural Resources and Eco-Tourism at Nong Lam University in HCMC. He received his PhD at Humboldt University Berlin. The position for the German Vice-president was also advertised and will be filled by the beginning of 2013.

After the conclusion of the meeting, the delegation visited the historic city of Hoi An and the sanctuary of My Son, both listed as world heritage by UNESCO.

The next regular University Council meeting will be in Germany in May 2013.
VGU Robotics Team wins first place
The Vietnamese German University fielded seven teams for the recent Bach Khoa Car Rally (BCR), hosted by the University of Technology (Trường Đại học Bách Khoa), and VGU’s team WindRunner took first place, beating out 31 other teams from eight other universities.

The BCR is an annual robotic car competition that took place this year over three weekends, from August 4 to 19, 2012.

Winners were determined by the best cumulative score over the six rounds. The students had to program robotic cars to follow a designated course that included 45 degree turns, S-turns, 90 degree turns, lane changes and blank sections of track.

Despite this being VGU’s first year competing, all of VGU’s teams being made up of first year students and the students having had only a limited time to prepare, VGU’s students did exceptionally well.

Skills for mastering this challenge were initially taught by the lecturer Richard Bradley in the Foundation Year course of Engineering English. VGU plans to sponsor one phase of the race next year and hopes to continue the success of this year’s teams.

Congratulations to all team members and to the coordinator, Richard Bradley!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Member 1</th>
<th>Member 2</th>
<th>Team Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Pham Dinh Khoa</td>
<td>Nguyen Huynh Duy Anh</td>
<td>VGU.WindRunner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Doan Ngoc Khiem</td>
<td>Dinh Quoc Huy</td>
<td>VGU.WeBirds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Nguyen Doan Quang Khoi</td>
<td>Ha Duc Bach</td>
<td>VGU.OcVit2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Pham Anh Hao</td>
<td>Le Ba Tien Trien</td>
<td>VGU.Olympus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st</td>
<td>Nguyen Thanh Quang</td>
<td>Duong Ngoc Quang Tam</td>
<td>VGU.BearSieg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Nguyen Vu Hoi</td>
<td>Le Quang Huy</td>
<td>VGU.OcVit1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Phan Hoang An</td>
<td>Nguyen Vo Son Ha</td>
<td>VGU.Thân thiện</td>
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</tbody>
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3. Student’s reports

EEIT students report about their stay in Germany
Due to the special situation, that VGU doesn’t have appropriate laboratories for Electrical Engineering and Information Technology (EEIT) until now, the EEIT students from the 2008 class exceptionally went to Germany for their final study year. This is only a temporary solution and will be modified in the future.

In August 2011, the 25 EEIT-students left Vietnam to study for one year at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, a partner of VGU’s EEIT bachelor program, in Germany. In September 2012, they returned. Here is what one of them reports:

Written by Trinh Hoang Nam Long, now Assistant of Academic Affairs at VGU

We did have a lot to do during the year, including many lab sessions, many lectures on various subjects, and had to focus much on the bachelor final project and thesis.

At first one year did not seem to be short time, but dealing with the studies made it run quite fast. We could still however arrange time to go round cities.

The city of Frankfurt is beautiful, especially for those who prefer something modern, skyscrapers' architecture for instance. One could hardly get bored in such a place.

The public transport system is not something to be complained about (though I experienced or saw many long delays and even cancellations). Trains, trams, busses, all work smoothly. The university might look old, but this was not really important as its lectures, equipment, and service have been very good.

Living through four clearly different seasons was also for many of us the first time. Then we surely also had to take advantage of the students’ semester ticket and the Schengen visa to discover the states and to cross borders. Though we had lots of work to do, I would say what we earned was definitely worth the stay.

In October, the next 20 EEIT students left to spend their final study year in Frankfurt. Good luck to all of them!
CompEng students report about their stay in Germany
Also as a workaround solution due to missing laboratories, the CompEng students of intake 2011 spent eight weeks in summer at the Ruhr University Bochum in Germany. Here is what one of them reports:

Written by Hanh Nguyen, CompEng student of intake 2011

We went to Ruhr University Bochum last summer for an internship and study trip. The journey was not so long, but sufficient to leave many good memories.

In Bochum, we had to pass an effective learning schedule that gained us 10 ECTS and the convenience to work directly with our supervisors for the cases study. Although we were used to the education system and the lecturers from VGU, it was still a little exciting to do the learning, examination and also case study in Germany. The labs and equipment in Germany impressed us very much.

Besides the learning schedule, our Bochum team also organized some unforgettable outdoor activities. Prof. Schmid took us on a visit to the Bergbau Museum right in the Bochum center to learn about a closed mine. Then we were guided by Prof. Stolpe to visit a real open mining area near Aachen city.

The approach has raised our awareness towards the environment and how we could put our knowledge into real application in order to benefit both the industry and the environment.

Last but not least, we also had the opportunity to challenge ourselves by a three hours rowing in the Ruhr river, experiencing the cold wind in Europe and the beauty of nature. Another very lovely impression was the public transportation. The metro was so convenient that you could go anywhere.

I believe that this trip is one of the most memorable experiences in our student life at VGU. It brought us many benefits in studying and living attitude.
4. Prospects and Dates

Progress in VGU’s architectural design competition
As many of you know, a new campus for VGU is planned to be built until 2017 on a 50.5 hectare property in Binh Duong province. The World Bank has provided a funding of 180 million US Dollar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the construction of the campus and another 20 Million US Dollar has been given by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The architectural competition for designing the new campus has now started. Phase-eins, a company specialized in consultancy of projects in the fields of architecture and urban planning, organizes the competition. The Request for Interests was published on Sep 05, 2012. Now there are six participating companies.

The next milestones will be:
- approx. November 19, 2012 Distribution of Request For Proposal for general planners
- approx. December 3 and 4, 2012 Jury Colloquium, Site Visit
- approx. December 4 and 5, 2012 Participant’s Colloquium and Site Visit in Vietnam
- approx. February 25, 2013 Submission of design proposals
- approx. March 25, 2013 Jury Meeting and selection of the winner of the design contest in Vietnam

You can find basic information about the contest here (please note that the time schedule was updated, you see the new dates above): [http://www.phase1.de/projects_vgu_home_e.htm](http://www.phase1.de/projects_vgu_home_e.htm)

Pictures: Vietnamese-German University (VGU), VietinBank, private