# Newsletter 02/2012

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Editorial

Dear colleagues, supporters and friends of VGU,

The most important news for the second issue of this year’s newsletter is: VGU has a new president! On 1st of June, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mallon was appointed as the new president of VGU. Read more about his background, ideas and plans, as well as more information about VGU’s staff on page 6.

As usual, the second quarter of 2012 was strongly influenced by the preparation for the next student intake for the winter term 2012/13. VGU is preparing to start new programs and move the existing full-time programs completely to its new interim-campus in Binh Duong. Find out about our activities and events in the next pages. As always, comments and questions are welcome – enjoy reading!

1. News from the Campus

Student events in Binh Duong and Thu Duc

VGU student life grows and thrives. During the last three months, many events for students and staff were organized, thanks to our active student affairs department and the many volunteers who provided support.

On 9th of May, the famous talent show “VGU’s Got Talent” was held in Binh Duong. Eleven groups and individuals from the Foundation Year competed against each other. The show had groups of dancers, solo singers, and students playing instruments. Ms. Lam Ngoc Truc, from Finance & Accounting, won the first prize with her gentle, romantic, Vietnamese song “Trua Vang”. On the 14th of June “Germany vs. Netherlands” was held in Ho Chi Minh-City. VGU students won a friendly football match against the team of NESO Vietnam (Netherlands Education Support Office) 5:3 on penalties. One day later, the end of the Foundation Year 2011 was celebrated in Binh Duong with a barbecue party and food from different countries. A special guest was the new president Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mallon.

Contributions to more academic diversity came from various guest lecturers. “How to set up a wind power farm?” was the topic of a public lecture on the 17th of May at the Binh Duong campus by Mr. Henri Wasnick, representative of E.N.O. Energy-Systems in Ho Chi Minh-City. In Thu Duc, an open seminar by Prof. Dr. Ansgar Kern was held on 30th May and 15th June about how field programmable gate arrays (FPGA) introduce the flexibility of software into the static world of conventional hardware design.
VGU buildings in Binh Duong
Teaching in Binh Duong has become more and more routine for students and lecturers during the past months. The facilities are in good shape, however some open tasks remain to be finished; such as a power generator to overcome occasional power losses. Also the VGU guest house is still not available, due to construction defects. The renovation of the administrative wing can, presumably, start during the next quarter.

VGU architectural design contest
To seek fresh ideas and opinions for the new campus of VGU in Binh Duong province and encourage all VGU members to identify with the project, VGU created an open idea competition. All of VGU’s students, professors, teachers and administration staff were invited to participate, and 13 teams and single competitors from students and staff accepted the invitation. Participants had to hand in a draft in written and/or multimedia form, and the best 10 teams presented their work in front of a jury and interested spectators.

The winner of the contest, Mr. Huỳnh Hoàng Anh Tuấn of MSST 2010, convinced the jury by an unconventional proposal focusing on the social aspects of his design. Second were Mr. Đặng Trần Bảo Khánh and Mr. Đỗ Đình Nguyên with the “Dream of Green”, third were Mr. Nguyễn Vũ Hồi, Mr. Nguyễn Hồng Lam and Ms. Trương Nguyên Thùy Phương with the proposal “New Objectivity”. All 13 drafts showed innovative and valuable ideas to be integrated in the actual campus design for VGU.

The next workshop about defining the spatial and functional program buildings for the Architectural Design Contest, with participation of representative professors of 7 clusters according to VGU's master plan, took place on Jun 27-28, 2012 in Wiesbaden. The architectural design of VGU campus is planned to be finished in March 2013. The packages for purchase of laboratory equipment for MSST and EEIT program are in bid evaluation process. The main items of this package are oscilloscopes to support the instruction to EEIT undergraduates and research for MSST postgraduate students. The equipment should be at VGU around September 2012.

Festo donation has arrived
After many months of following complex import procedures, VGU finally could receive a Process Control System as a laboratory-donation of the company Festo. The workstation will be used for the lecture of “Automation Control” in the fields of Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology.
2. Events

Bachelors meet Business
As a freshman at university, did you know what the working world will eventually expect from you after graduation? Sixty percent of the Bachelor students enrolled in “Finance and Accounting” dream of becoming a Chief Financial Officer of an international company based in Ho Chi Minh City, but only a few of these students have a vague notion of what a CFO does to earn a living, and almost no student knows the requirements for being promoted to the executive floor of an international company.

Since May 2012, the Bachelor meets Business-project at VGU has bridged the gap between a student’s dream and the business reality. Twice a month, a group of 30 students has the opportunity to meet CEOs, CFOs, Human Resource Managers, Advisors, Head Accountants, and Controllers. During a two hour meeting students get the chance to learn from the professionals’ experience and to satisfy their curiosity by asking business related and career related questions. Bayer Vietnam, Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Lufthansa, KPMG, Mercedes Benz Vietnam, PWC, Siemens, and Unilever are already supporters of the program.

In order to benefit most from these short visits, students prepare themselves intensively. In groups of five they work on 10 minute presentations about the company. The results of the in-depth research are first presented in class, where students vote for the best presentation. The winning group will then make a presentation to the company during the company visit. After the presentations, students introduce themselves and their career paths. They can ask questions and learn from the experiences of their role models. Also, students get first hand information on the daily life inside an international company in Vietnam. With the educational background VGU students receive in the course of study, they are prime candidates for international companies seeking employees who not only possess academic knowledge and English language proficiency but also social and intercultural skills.

Workshop “Market-driven Innovation Management”
As a foretaste of the new MBA program of “Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise Development” (SEPT – Small Enterprise Promotion and Training), VGU and the University of Leipzig successfully organized two workshops about “Market- Driven Innovation Management” for students and entrepreneurs in Ho Chi Minh City on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2012.

The workshops were presented by Prof. Dr. Utz Dornberger, Director of SEPT from the University of Leipzig. The first workshop was dedicated to lecturers, staff and MBA candidates. It attracted more than 50 participants and there were many interesting questions raised regarding Innovation Management.

The next day, VGU, the University of Leipzig and Saigon Entrepreneur Club cooperated to organize a big workshop for entrepreneurs in Ho Chi Minh City. The workshop was attended by
the other, but not logical for both) designed for Vietnamese entrepreneurs in the hope that all of contents in MBA program, as well as training services of Innovation Management of SEPT will be suitable for the development of Vietnamese entrepreneurs. The hundred attendees were inspired by the workshop and were enthusiastic about the possibility of the different concepts of innovation for their companies. The workshops also attracted press and media in Ho Chi Minh City, such as HTV9, Thanh Nien Newspapers, Saigon Giai Phong & Saigon Entrepreneur Magazine.

**Master information sessions**
To inform Bachelor graduates and young professionals about VGU’s Master programs, delegations from VGU’s study programs and management visited several technical universities in Ho Chi Minh-City, as well as well-known universities in Da Nang, Can Tho and Hanoi, and governmental institutes, like the Department for Development Studies and the Department of Home Affairs. These groups make up the target group of potential candidates for the Master programs. Attracting Master students for full-time programs is still a challenge due to the different cultural background and financial restrictions in Vietnam. For the last intake, VGU saw a slight increase in application numbers for all programs. The first rounds of interviews and entrance examinations for the most programs have already passed; one or two more rounds will be held prior to admission in September.

**Open Days in Binh Duong**
For the second time since 2011, VGU opened its campus doors in Binh Duong for everyone interested in taking a look at the university facilities; like the campus building, dormitories, and the linked sports center of Binh Duong New City. The first event took place on April 22nd. Visitors were picked up from downtown Ho-Chi-Minh City and were brought to the VGU campus by buses. The tour included a stop-over at VGU’s dormitories and the popular sports center of Binh Duong New City, which can be used by all VGU students for a very moderate entrance fees. A total of more than 400 students, from at least 5 high schools, and other interested guests received information on VGU’s Bachelor programs of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Computer Sciences and Finance & Accounting, as well as for the full-time Master programs. Visitors could witness the development of VGU, the active student life and gain impressions of the every-day learning environment thanks to a multi-media presentation and examples of student projects, such as the “robot demonstration”. Entertainment was supplied by the VGU music group.

Another Open Day was organized on the 16th of June especially for the full-time Master programs of Computational Engineering, Sustainable Urban Development and Traffic and Transport. Also candidates for Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology were invited to Thu Duc Campus on 7th of July.
3. Personnel and administrative affairs

New president for VGU

The Vietnamese-German University (VGU) has a new president. The University Council unanimously appointed Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jürgen Mallon, a Kiel Professor of Manufacturing Engineering and Production Management, to be the new president of the Vietnamese and German jointly founded university in Ho Chi Minh City. The official appointment by the Ministry of Education took place in Hanoi on 01 June 2012.

Jürgen Mallon has already had many years of experience in Asia. He was the Technical Director for three production facilities of Zwilling J.A. Henckels in Shanghai, where he was also responsible for planning and building a new factory. In 2006 he was appointed Professor of Production Technology and Production Management at the University of Applied Sciences Kiel, and, in 2008, he was appointed head of the Institute of CIM- Technology Transfer (CIMTT) of the University of Applied Sciences Kiel. The 46-year-old is married and has one son. As the German President of VGU, Prof. Jürgen Mallon succeeds Professor Wolf Rieck, who retired from this position in May 2011. During the interim phase, the Vietnamese Vice-Minister of Education and Training Professor Bui Van Ga was acting president.

“It is a long road to create an excellent university, but today we already lay the crucial foundation necessary to achieve this important goal. I am looking forward to this challenge and I am sure that it will be an exciting time” said Jürgen Mallon. One of his most important tasks will be to lay the groundwork for the faculties, which will follow the German model for research and teaching, and will be staffed with senior Vietnamese professors.

Another important task facing Jürgen Mallon is the establishment of research centers, whose primary research activities will be closely coordinated with VGU's study programs. Research at VGU will be oriented toward the areas of engineering and natural sciences with a focus on energy, traffic, transportation and logistics, water resources, sustainable urban development, with protection of the environment, and appropriate utilization of resources, as well as economics.

Staff of VGU

Other new staff members have also joined VGU during the last months. Mr. Trần Hoàng Minh started to assist the IT department and Ms. Bùi Nhật Hoang Anh is now part of Academic Affairs and supports the academic coordinators. In July former and new Head of Marketing Mr. Võ Minh Thái came back to VGU. Domestic purchaser Ms. Trần Thùy Mỹ Duyên has left VGU, as well as EEIT Research and Teaching Assistant Mr. Nguyễn Khắc Danh Tú. Also Vice-President Dr. Võ Việt Cường has resigned in June to resume a position at the University of Technical Education. We are very grateful for his commitment during his time at VGU.

Capacity building of academic staff
After hiring the first Research and Teaching Assistants in the beginning of 2012, recruitment for the first five professorships (three associate and two junior professorships) has now started. The requests to fill the positions of “Computational Mechanics”, “Simulations Technology”, “Electrical Engineering and Metrology”, “Embedded Systems and Micro Controller” and “Transport Planning and Traffic Engineering” were published. The deadline for application was on 15th June. The next steps will be to establish international Search and Nominate Committees and to start the appointment procedure as approved by VGU’s University Council in January 2012. If necessary there will be a second round for applications.

More Research and Teaching Assistants will join VGU within the upcoming months and contribute to a growing academic reputation by participating in national and international conferences and publishing papers. Members of VGU will take part in “Multiscale Material Modeling” in Karlsruhe and “Progress In Electromagnetics Research” in Moscow. For this symposium, VGU is co-publisher of a paper about “Solenoid magnet for gun-collector module of 42 GHz 200 kW gyrotron” in the fields of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology.

Bachelor Entrance Examination
During four days from 8th to 11th of June, 215 applicants for the Bachelor programs of Electrical Engineering & Information Technologies and Finance & Accounting took part in VGU’s Entrance Examinations. After their admission, 67 candidates enrolled to study at VGU in September 2012; around 40-50 more are expected after the National Entrance Exam. The program of Computer Sciences had to be postponed to 2013 due to an insufficient number of applications.

For the entrance examination VGU is using the “TestAS”, a scholastic aptitude test developed and executed by ITB Consulting GmbH and TestDaF Institute in Germany. It consists of a problem solving test (“core test”) and a subject-specific test, both in English language. On the second day, applicants had to take part in the so-called Onscreen English test. The Core Test measures general cognitive abilities of the students, and consists of four sub-tests: Solving Quantitative Problems, Inferring Relations, Completing Patterns and Continuing Numerial Series. The subject specific engineering or economics module measures cognitive abilities for successful studies in the related area.

4. Prospects and Dates

University Council
The next University Council will be held on 31st of August 2012 in Vietnam. Chairpersons are Prof. Dr. Pham Van Luan, Minister of Education of Vietnam and Ms. Eva Kühne-Hörmann, Minister of Education of Hessen.

Opening Ceremony and next graduation
Expecting around 25 Bachelor and 40 Master graduates, VGU will hold its Academic Year-Opening and Graduation Ceremony on 6th October 2012 in Binh Duong and looks forward to the attendance of Hessen Prime Minister, Mr. Volker Bouffier.