

ONE PLACE, ONE STORY

Title / Position: Project Volunteers

Worksite: online, Ho Chi Minh City and Soc Trang province

Working period (tentative): mid of May - end of July, 2022 (commit to work for 2.5 months at least)

ABOUT US

Lawrence S. Ting Foundation (LSTF) was established in 2005 as a local non-profit and non-government organization in Vietnam. So far, it has supported about 1.8 million underprivileged people across the whole country. LSTF mainly provides services and support in the education and health sectors to people in need. Its major works include scholarship and life skills training for disadvantaged students, IT equipment provision for schools, capacity building for teachers, wheelchair distribution for people with disabilities, and so on. Find more information from our website: www.lstf.org.vn

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Background

Vietnam has been actively participating in regional and global development, particularly through its economic reforms, however, Vietnamese workers are facing certain limitations including foreign language proficiency, creativity and other soft skills, etc. From the aspect of English proficiency, the government has implemented projects such as “Teaching and Learning Foreign Languages through its Education System’ to cultivate more proper workforces to meet the market demands. Yet, the actual practice might not be as expected. English courses in the public education system mainly focus on learning grammar and writing not practicing speaking¹ due to the high student-teacher ratio (40 – 50 students per class).

Soft skills² training, on the other hand, has not been well taken into account within the existing school curriculum design yet. Schools in rural areas emphasize more on teaching students the contents/knowledge from textbooks and hard skills instead of practicing how to interpret theories and then apply to the different contexts/fields. In addition to that, the ability of effectively communication/express themselves might not be addressed in course design. Thus, these might result in difficulties for employers to find the needed talents in the future markets and the young generation cannot adapt to the fast-changing world, thereby decreasing competitiveness for the country of Vietnam.

Project Design

Project objectives:

- 1) Strengthen English ability and communications skills for students in need;
- 2) Create opportunities for children to learn about their communities as well as to build up a sense of ownership and social responsibilities.

¹ In Vietnam, there has only 3 sessions (45 minutes for each) per week for learning English in general.

² Soft skills including creativity, communication, presentation might be treated as one of key way to climb in an office-based job.

- 3) Collect stories from each province and then become a unique piece of work to share more people about the country of Vietnam.

How to implement:

- 1) Each year, a group of Vietnamese and English speaker volunteers will travel together to one rural province to conduct English tutoring for 10 days/2 weeks in summer time.
- 2) Practicing presentation and storytelling are the key methods embedded in this project design so that children can learn soft skills at the fundamental level.
- 3) Onsite visits/tours to see the locality is also another emphasis in this design. Children can better understand local community and then build a sense of ownership for children.
- 4) A storytelling event will be hold to wrap up the whole tutoring.

Project lifespan: 5 years

Project location: pilot in Soc Trang province at the first year and will then replicate and scale up to other provinces.

Project partners: 1) Friendship Union organization; 2) Women Union 3) Local government (Dept. of Education and Training); 4) Experts with different backgrounds relating to teaching, tutoring and storytelling.

Project beneficiaries: junior high students from disadvantaged families living in the rural areas.

Expected results: at the first year of implementation,

- (i) 15 students are able to share their own stories in English for about 5 minutes. Story contents include self-introduction, highlighting the specialties/attractions in their communities/province and how they would like to contribute to their community development in the future.
- (ii) 5-15 sets of artworks (drawing and craft making) will be made to support children in doing storytelling.
- (iii) A small and warm event will be organized to let parents listen to the voices of children and their stories.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR PROJECT VOLUNTEER

Goals: Support project team to implement project activities under the role of English tutor and itinerary organizer.

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Participate in the content development of English tutoring.

- Develop and refine the course contents under the designed tutoring structures and topics;
- Prepare a material list for conducting 2-week tutoring sessions;
- Conduct preliminary engagement with students to gain better context understanding.

2. Conduct on-site tutoring services

- Support students in strengthening English ability through making short presentations under various topics;
- Facilitate students to gain soft skills (mainly communication and presentation) through daily activities;
- Facilitate students to design and make visual arts (drawing/craft making) to better illustrate their stories;
- Guide students how to clearly and confidently express themselves in English and then introduce their communities through a storytelling method;
- Organize the event of storytelling at community level.

Volunteer Training:

- Local context briefing;
- Course content preparation;
- Presentation, facilitation, tutoring, teamwork skills;
- Other teaching skills if needed.

Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes Required:

- Excellent verbal communications in English;
- Computer skills required (Microsoft, media-related);
- Adaptability & teamwork;
- Creative thinking; simple drawing skill;
- Ability to work under time constraints; result orientation.

Benefits of Being Volunteer:

- Engage with local people and visit different places to have a better understanding of country Vietnam;
- Strengthen soft skills and hard skills in project planning.

*Remarks: this project will be piloting in 2022 and project team together with volunteers will draw lessons learnt after the roll-out. Then, see the appropriateness of doing R&R adjustments for project volunteers. For instance, give more flexibility to adjust course content arrangement and design.

TIMEFRAME

Length of committed time: continuous 2.5 months

Timeframe Tasks	May		June				July			
	3rd week	4th week	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Volunteer training & orientation										
1. Participate in the content development of English tutoring										
Develop the contents under the designed structures and topics										
Prepare a material list for conducting 2-week tutoring sessions										
Conduct preliminary engagement										
Refine the tutoring contents after preliminary engagement										
2. Conduct on-site tutoring services										
Conduct on-site English tutoring activities										
Wrap-up										

Working Off-site/virtually: 5 hours per day; 2 days per week

Working On-site: 7 hours per day; whole week

The 1st and 2nd weeks of July will be mainly staying in HCM; 3RD and 4th weeks of July will be staying in Soc Trang.