

**OPENING UNIVERSITY  
EDUCATION  
TO DEAF PEOPLE IN VIET NAM  
THROUGH SIGN LANGUAGE  
ANALYSIS, TEACHING, AND  
INTERPRETATION**

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Bien Hoa City

# PROJECT SITE

## CAO DANG SU PHAM, DONG NAI

### (DONG NAI PROVINCIAL TEACHER'S COLLEGE)



# **Brief Project Description**

**“Opening University Education to Deaf People in Viet Nam Through Sign Language Analysis, Teaching, and Interpretation” is a project begun in 2000 to provide deaf adults in Viet Nam with their first opportunity for higher educational programs taught in Vietnamese and Vietnamese sign languages (VNSLs)**

# **Purpose of the Project**

**The project, funded by The Nippon Foundation, is intended to serve as a model program that demonstrates that most countries in the region could establish indigenous tertiary educational programs for deaf people even if the country has few financial and human resources it can call upon, no previous sign language analysis, and only the most basic level of Deaf Education**

# Sign Language Situation at the Beginning of the Project in 2000

- At least 3 major sign languages in Viet Nam:
  1. Ho Chi Minh City Sign Language (HCMCSL),
  2. Ha Noi Sign Language (HNSL),
  3. Hai Phong Sign Language (HPSL)
- 54% to 58% shared basic vocabulary.
- Vietnamese Deaf people can become fluent in another Vietnamese sign language in about 6 months

# Classroom Communication Situation at the Beginning of the Project in 2000

**Most schools used only spoken Vietnamese as the language of instruction.**

**A few schools used some signing- usually in combination with speech, but these schools were only signing in the word order of spoken Vietnamese**

## Level of Education Situation at the Beginning of the Project in 2000

**In 1995, one private school for deaf people had established the first junior high school classes for deaf people in Viet Nam (taught in spoken Vietnamese) but by 2000 deaf people in the junior high school classes had only reached 7<sup>th</sup> grade.**



# Laying the Foundation for a College Program for Deaf People in Viet Nam

Given the situation in Viet Nam at the start of the project, it was impossible to immediately establish a college education program.

Instead 3 programs were initially established to lay the foundation for college education.

# Laying the Foundation for a College Program for Deaf People in Viet Nam

- 1) A certificate program in sign language analysis to prepare sign language teaching materials,**
- 2) A certificate program in sign language teaching to train deaf people how to teach VNSLs to hearing teachers,**
- 3) a general adult high school program taught bilingually in Vietnamese sign languages and written Vietnamese,**

# Timelines for Laying the Foundation for the College Program

Certificate in SL Analysis 2000-2003

41/43 students (95% passed)

Certificate in SL Teaching 2000-2003

16/22 students (72%) passed

Junior High School 2001-2008

43/43 students (100%) passed

Senior High School 2005-present

19/25 students (76%) passed so far

# College Program (1)

- 11 Deaf students are now enrolled in a a 2-year post-secondary certificate program at Dong Nai Provincial Teacher's College.
- Deaf students study the same curriculum as hearing students, however they are taught in a separate classroom.



ĐÀO TẠO GIÁO VIÊN ĐIỀU  
NGÀNH GIÁO DỤC TỈNH THƯỜNG XUYÊN TỈNH TUYÊN GIANG  
OPENING CEREMONY FOR DEAF TEACHERS  
TRAINING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM 1<sup>ST</sup> COURSE  
BIÊN HÒA, NGÀY 4/7/2008



## College Program (2)

- The curriculum is taught bilingually in Ho Chi Minh City Sign Language and written Vietnamese. Teachers who can sign for themselves do so. Teachers who cannot sign for themselves are provided with SL interpreters.
- If additional time is needed, up to 1 & ½ the required hours are permitted & paid for. However, this is rarely needed.



## College Program (3)

- Upon successful completion of the program, students can be hired by any school as a regular teacher at the elementary school level.
- Upon successful completion of the program, students can enter and complete a 1 & ½ year top-up program for a B.A. degree in elementary school education.



# Results of First Year of College Program

- All 11 Deaf students (100%) have passed their courses for the first year of the college program.
- 5 out of 11 Deaf students (45%) completed their first year of course work with first honors (2 people) or second honors (3 people).

# Evaluations of Deaf Teacher Trainees by Hearing Teachers (1)

- Hearing professors rate Deaf students in the program as highly qualified, highly motivated, and highly skilled in class as well as in teaching demonstrations.
- Current hearing teachers outside the college also give high evaluations to teaching demonstrations given by Deaf teacher-trainees.

## Evaluations of Deaf Teacher Trainees by Hearing Teachers (2)

- Current hearing teachers working in schools for deaf people comment especially on classroom management and teaching strategies employed by Deaf teacher trainees.
- Several schools have asked to hire Deaf teacher trainees after completion of their training.



# Future Plans (1)

- Continue and expand the program in Dong Nai in terms of number of training programs and numbers of students,
- Negotiate with local and central governments to obtain increased local and central government funding for the Dong Nai Project, resulting in less reliance on support from The Nippon Foundation.

## Future Plans (2)

- Cooperate with The Nippon Foundation and Pen International to establish an identical project in Ha Noi using Ha Noi Sign Language instead of Ho Chi Minh City Sign Language.

# Contact Information for the Project

Deaf Cultural Studies Program

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Dong Khoi Street, KP 3, P Tan Hiep

TP Bien Hoa, Dong Nai, VIET NAM

[woodyvn@yahoo.com](mailto:woodyvn@yahoo.com)

[hoatng@yahoo.com](mailto:hoatng@yahoo.com)

# Some Additional Photos About Sign Language Analysis & Sign Language Teaching

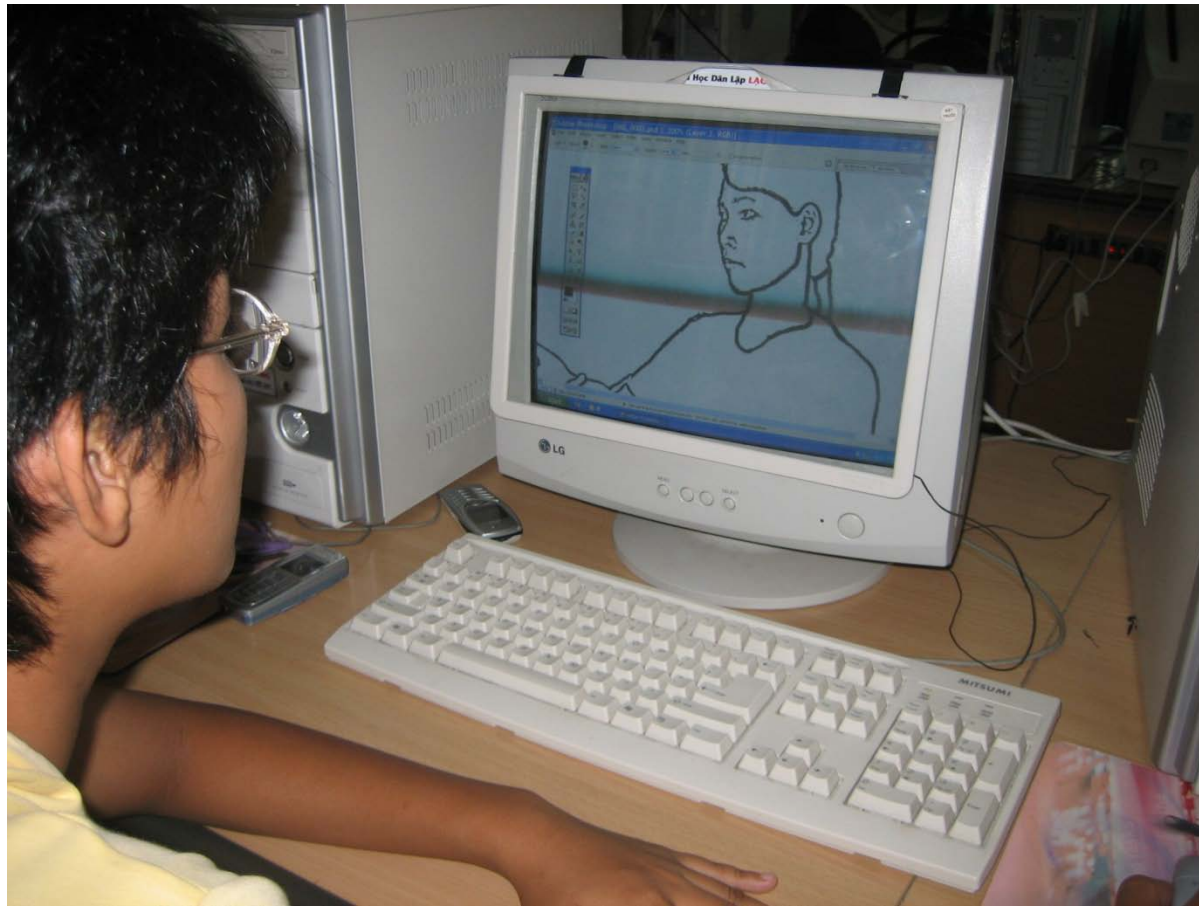
Photos on the following pages are added for distribution to show additional activities of Deaf students. However, there was insufficient time to include them in the actual presentation in Changchun.



# Photographing Signs



# Producing Line Drawings From Photographs



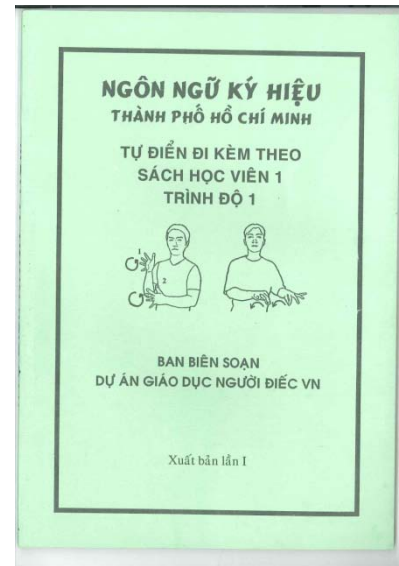
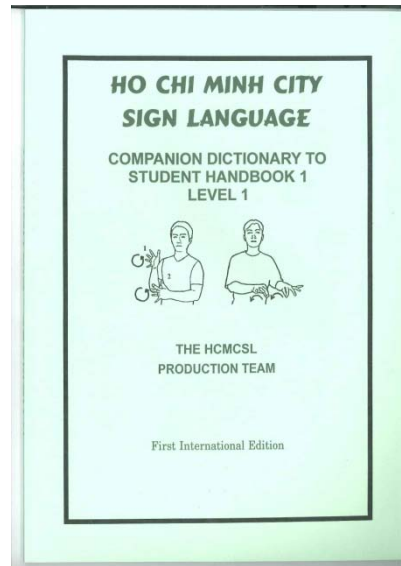
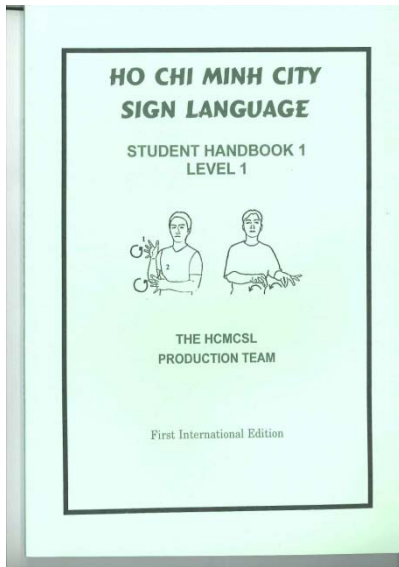
# Organizing HCMCSL Signs with the Same Handshape By Orientation and Location



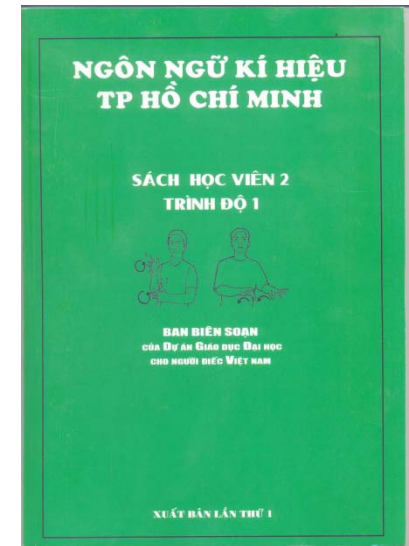
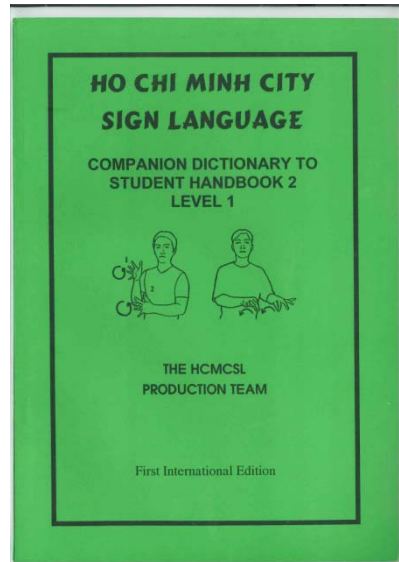
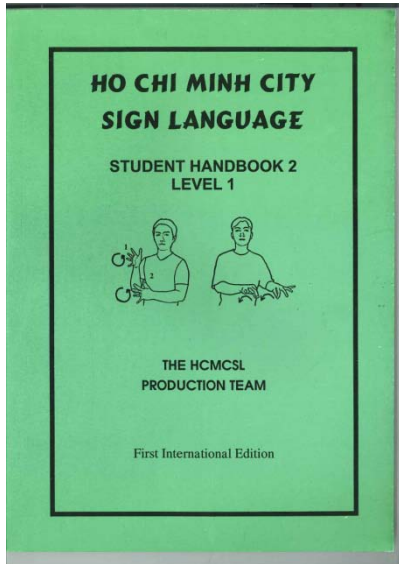
# Organizing the Vietnamese to HCMCSL Dictionary by the Vietnamese Alphabet



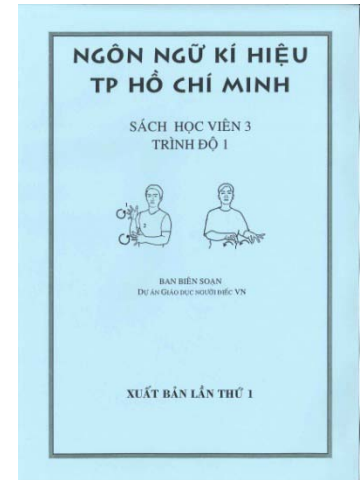
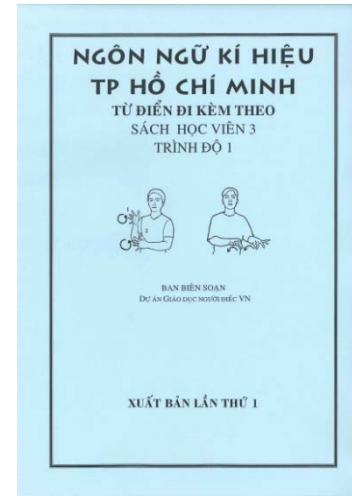
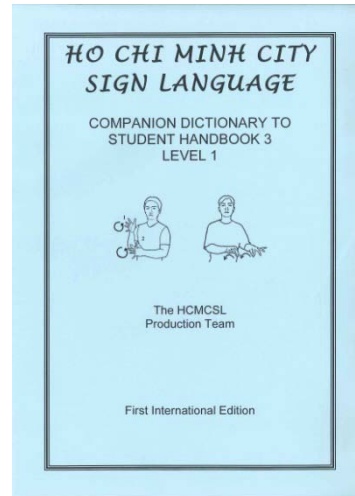
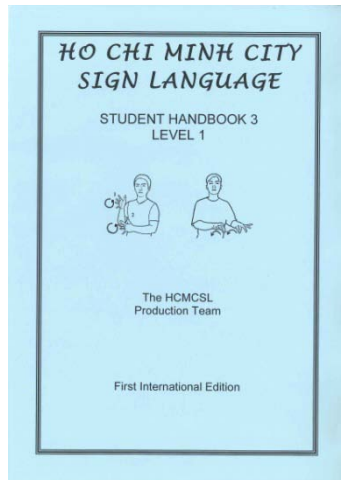
# 4 Books Published in May, 2007



# 4 Books Published in Dec, 2007



# 4 Books to be Published in October, 2009



日本財団  
The Nippon Foundation

Funded by The Nippon Foundation

# Mr. Hai (Deaf) Teaching HCMCSL to Hearing at Dong Nai Teaching College





# Other Examples of Deaf People Teaching Sign Language to Hearing People in Viet Nam

