

THE DONG NAI PROJECT: Pen International Report

James Woodward, Director
Nguyen Thi Hoa, Co-Director



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

Philosophy of the Program Related to Sign Language Choice

Because staff and students of the project believe in the preservation of local sign languages,

- . The Dong Nai Project uses HCMCSL because the project is close to HCMC.
- . A new project that we are trying to start in Ha Noi will use HNSL.
- . We encourage Deaf people in Dong Nai to learn HCMCSL & HNSL and Deaf people in Ha Noi to learn HNSL & HCMCSL

The project has made a dramatic impact on educational opportunities for Deaf people in Viet Nam,

- . graduating the first class of Deaf students from Junior High School,
- . graduating the first and only classes of Deaf students from Senior High School,
- . and providing the only college/university program for Deaf students in Viet Nam

Project's Impact on Educational Opportunities

∴

	Before Project	Project Results
Deaf Jr High School Grads	NO	YES
Deaf Sr. High School Grads	NO	YES
Deaf College/Univ Students	NO	YES
Deaf People Studying to be Teachers	NO	YES

The Ministry of Education and Training has a standardized curriculum and a set of standardized textbooks that are used with all hearing high school students in Viet Nam. Deaf students in the Dong Nai Project are taught the same curriculum and use the same textbooks as hearing students.

Let's examine the results of Deaf students in the project as measured internally by tests and examinations given by teachers.

Project's Internal Results for Junior High School

∴

	Accepted	Passed	Honors
6th Grade	34	30 (88%)	16 (37%)
7th Grade	37	36 (97%)	21 (57%)
8th Grade	44	43 (98%)	22 (50%)
9th Grade	43	43 (100%)	15 (35%)

Project's Internal Results for Senior High School

∴

	Accepted	Passed	Honors
10th Grade	43	43 (100%)	14 (33%)
11th Grade	39	39 (100%)	10 (26%)
12th Grade	31	26 (84%)	5 (16%)

In addition to the grades given by teachers, we can also examine the results of standardized examinations prepared by The Ministry of Education and Training. The standardized examinations are given outside the school at central testing sites, where no teachers of the students are allowed to be. No names appear on the test papers, and the tests are graded anonymously by a panel of teachers who have had no contact with the students.

Results for National Examinations for Deaf Students in Project and Hearing Students in the same province (Dong Nai)

∴

	Deaf Students in Project	Hearing Students in Dong Nai Province
2003	100%	76%
2004	100%	77%
2005	100%	81%
2006	100%	81%
2007	58%	35%
2008	67%	10%
2010	33%	??

If we compare the grades in courses with passing grades in National Examinations, we find the passing rate for courses for the project paralleled the passing rate for National Examinations quite closely as shown in the chart on the next page.

Thus, the project is clearly providing what it claims to be doing.

Percentages of Deaf Students in the Project Who Passed Courses and National Examinations to Graduate

Passed Grade 9 courses and passed standardized Junior High School National Exams to Graduate.

100%

Passed Grade 12 courses and passed standardized Senior High School Exams to Graduate

81%

Junior High School Graduating Class of 2003



Senior High School Graduating Class of 2006

**LE Thi Thu Huong, DOAN Pham Khiem,
NGUYEN T. Tran Tien, LUU Ngoc Tu**



Of the 19 Deaf students who have graduated Senior High School so far,

3 (16%) are self-employed,

4 (21%) are employed in factories,

1 (5%) was recently admitted to an architectural university

11 (58%) have been studying in a tertiary teacher training diploma program through the project that will lead to a B.A. in Elementary School Education.

Results of Deaf Students in the College/ University Teacher Training Program

∴

	Accepted	Passed	Honors
Year 1	11	11 (100%)	5 (45%)
Year 2	10	10 (100%)	5 (50%)

College Program

- The curriculum is the standard curriculum for students learning to be elementary school teachers and 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 1.2 times the required hours are permitted & paid for. However, this is rarely needed.





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.
- Some schools have asked to hire Deaf teacher trainees after completion of their training.



After the College Program

- 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.

The success rates of the high school and college programs of the Dong Nai Deaf Education Project are extremely high. It is useful at this point to ask how and why such success rates have been possible.

The Goal and How to Get There

The goal of the Dong Nai Deaf Education Project has been “Opening University Education to Deaf People in Viet Nam.” The how has been “Through Sign Language Analysis, Teaching, and Interpretation”. The goal was reachable by building a strong foundation slowly and carefully based on the cultural model of deafness.

Medical and Cultural Models of Deafness

∴

Medical Model

Deaf people can't hear

Deaf people have a medical pathology.

Deaf children should go to doctors for treatment.

Deafness can/should be cured by technology.

Deaf people cannot integrate into society.

Deaf people have a problem and need to change.

Speech is very important.

Cultural Model

Deaf people use a different language.

Deaf people are not sick. They are simply different.

Deaf children should interact with Deaf adults.

Deafness does not need to be cured.

Society does not facilitate Deaf people's integration.

More Hearing people need to sign.

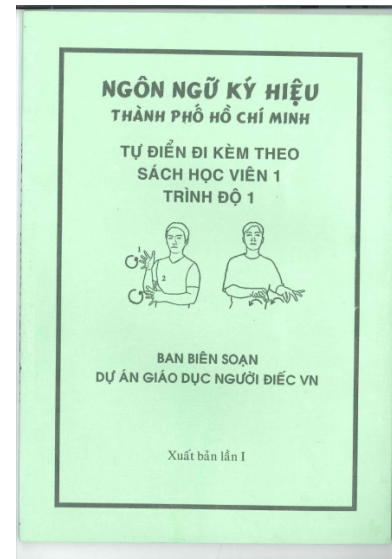
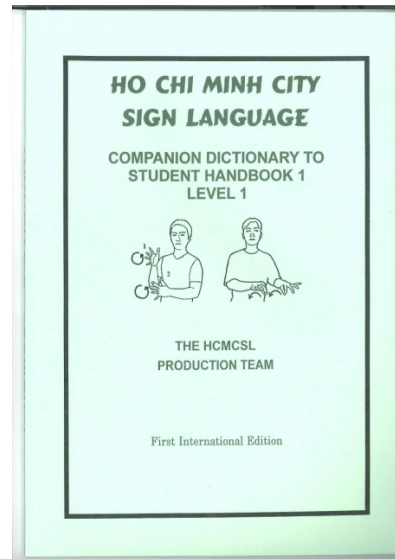
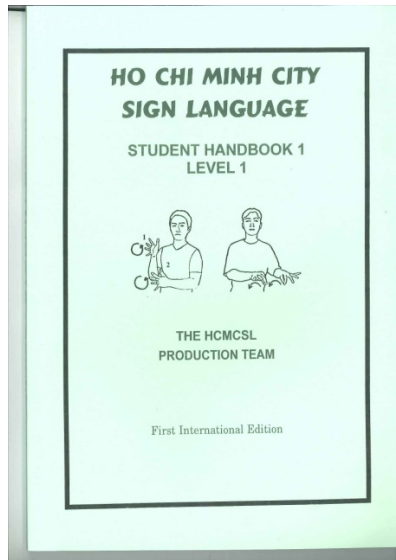
Sign Language&writing are much more important than speech.

Certificate Program in Sign Language Analysis

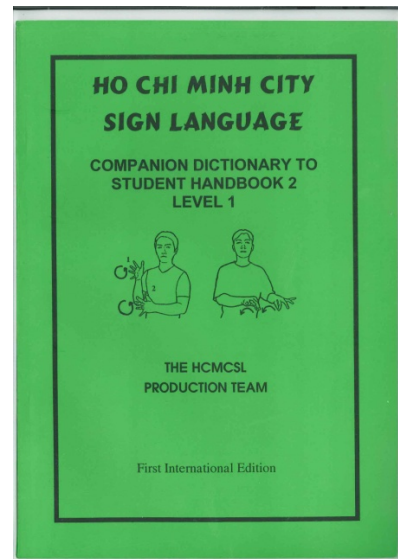
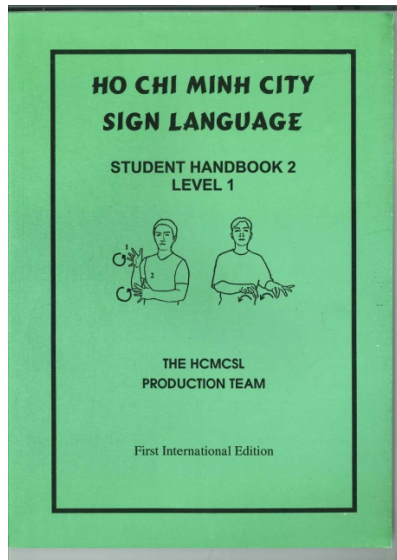
The program in sign language analysis was designed to train Deaf people in Viet Nam:

- how to analyze their own sign languages,
- how to make dictionaries of sign languages in Viet Nam,
- how to produce grammatical handbooks for sign languages in Viet Nam,
- how to produce sign language teaching books,
- and as a prerequisite for entering the sign language teacher training program.

4 Books Published in May, 2007



4 Books Published in Dec, 2007



	Took Sign Language Analysis	Did Not Take Sign Language Analysis
Passed 12 th Grade and National Exams	18 (86%)	3 (30%)
Did Not Pass 12 th Grade or National Exams	3 (14%)	7 (70%)
Totals	21 (100%)	10 (100%)

Certificate Program in Sign Language Teaching

The program in sign language teaching was designed to train deaf people in Viet Nam how to teach their sign languages to hearing people, especially to their own hearing teachers and to hearing people who want to become sign language interpreters. Courses in the certificate programs in sign language teaching are taught only by Deaf professional sign language instructors (Dr. Mike Kemp, Jean Gordon, Peoungpaka Janyawong).

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



Cost to Run the Dong Nai Project

Year 1	\$28,790
Year 2	\$20,827
Year 3	\$52,620
Year 4	\$38,419
Year 5	\$41,535
Year 6	\$45,940
Year 7	\$51,028
Year 8	\$48,784
Year 9	\$24,207
Year 10	\$31,784
Average Cost	\$38,393

Applicability of Project to Other Countries

The project is succeeding in Viet Nam at an average rate of less than \$40,000 per year. The reason for this low yearly cost is a non-dependence on expensive high-tech equipment, which tends to break down frequently in countries like Viet Nam and is very expensive to repair. Similar programs can succeed in other countries with proper design and implementation based on anthropological and linguistic research on local indigenous sign languages and Deaf cultures and with the establishment of the program within a cultural/linguistic framework that is acceptable to the larger hearing culture(s) in the country. If dependence is placed primarily on personnel and not on technology, such programs can also be established in many countries at a low-cost and still be highly successful.

Collaboration

- Collaboration with Ratchasuda College on Training Vietnamese Deaf people as Sign Language Teachers.
- Collaboration with Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies on Sign Language Handbooks and Dictionaries.
- Collaboration with Pen-International Staff on Further Educational Training for Teachers in Dong Nai and in Ha Noi.

Contact Information for the Project

Deaf Cultural Studies Program

5th Floor, Cao Dang Su Pham Dong Nai

Dong Khoi Street, KP 3, P Tan Hiep

TP Bien Hoa, Dong Nai, VIET NAM

woodyvn@yahoo.com

hoatng@yahoo.com