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**YOUTH PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
VIA VIETNAM YOUTH LAW**

*By Nguyen Thi Hoang Van  
Director General of Int'l Dept, NCYV*

INTRODUCTION

Vietnam has young population. The youth accounts for 36% of the total population of the nation and 55% of the labor force.

The renewal course of the country for the last 20 years has gained remarkable achievements in terms of social and economic development, improvement of material and spiritual life of people and has created favorable conditions for the nurturing, training and promoting youth.

Nowadays youth's physical strength, educational and professional levels as well as scientific and technological knowledge have been increased.

However, in comparison to the demand of the industrialization and modernization of the country young people are still facing certain shortcomings. In general, Vietnamese youth are lacking sufficient knowledge and skills for development and international integration, namely: IT knowledge, foreign language, communication and cooperation skills, sense of initiative, skills for self-establishment, etc. In addition, they are also facing new challenges of development, such as gap between the rich and the poor, materialism, impact of globalization, etc.

Major problem of young people nowadays, among others, are: employment (unemployment and under employment, lack of skills training, job mismatch, etc.), migration from rural to urban areas, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, prostitution, HIV/AIDS, etc.

The promulgation of the Youth Law is to identify rights and obligations of youth as well as social relations concerning youth, create a healthy legal, economic, cultural and social environment for youth to study, be trained and bring into full play their potential, thus contribute to the formation and promotion of a young human resource for industrialization and modernization of the country.

#### YOUTH PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT VIA THE YOUTH LAW

The Youth Law of Vietnam was passed by the National Assembly on the 29 Nov. 2005 and will come into effect on the 1 July, 2006. It has 6 Chapters with 36 Articles. The Law is applicable to all agencies, organizations and individuals.

The Youth Law identifies youth as young people from 16 to 30 years of age. The Law defines youth's rights and obligations; responsibility of the State, family and society for youth; youth organizations.

#### **Rights and obligations of youth:**

The Law defines equal rights and obligations of all Vietnamese youth regardless sex, ethnic group, religion, job, educational level, etc.

Based on the basic rights and obligations of citizens the Law defines youth's rights and obligations in the youth-related fields of education, labor, national defense, scientific and technological activities, environmental protection, artistic and cultural activities, tourism,

entertainment, health care, sports, marriage and family, social and state management, etc.

The youth's rights and obligations defined in the Law will be served as a base for the State to issue youth-related policies and identify the responsibility of State, society and family for the training and promotion of youth.

### **Responsibilities of the State, family and society for youth**

The Law identifies State's basic policies as well as the responsibilities of agencies, organizations and individuals in order to mobilize the potential of the said subjects in nurturing, educating, training youth and creating favorable condition for youth to bring into full play youth potential for self-establishment and contribution to the industrialization and modernization of the country. The policies focus on the improvement of youth's capability in self-establishment and in solving youth-related social issues.

The Law also defines supportive policies for the less-advantaged youth groups (namely, disable youth, youth living with HIV/AIDS, youth after drug abuse treatment, etc.) and for more-advanced youth (young volunteers, talented youth) in order to create equal opportunities of development for all.

The Law also has a special Chapter to define the responsibilities of the State, family and society in protecting and nurturing youth group of 16 - 18 years of aged

Young people at 16 - 18 aged are adolescents and, according to the International Children Convention which Vietnam signed in 1990, young people at that age are still considered as children. The content of this Chapter shows a more focus in nurturing, protecting and creating condition for a comprehensive development of this group in their

process of character formation. This Chapter also defines the application of ICC for youth at 16-18.

### **Youth organizations**

Youth organizations play a very important role in the education, nurturing and promoting youth potential. The Law defines position and role of youth organization such as the Hochiminh Communist Youth Union and the Vietnam Youth Federation in developing and promoting youth./.