

Dúc Linh, September 2nd, 2003: 19,145 participants! running to support the poorest pupils

Dear friends,

In June, we wrote to you about the "marathon" ¹ on anti-tobacco day, and about the decision of many schools to organize another one, **bigger**, in September. Goal: make a gesture of solidarity with the children who cannot afford to pay, convince the sympathizers of Việt Nam Plus to support the scholarship program. Bigger? On Monday, we were **19,145!** Extraordinary! Two times more than another "marathon" sponsored by a multinational company in Hà Nội! Three times bigger than the yearly "marathon" organized by the province! Of course, this was not a competition; some of the participants were walking. We were just aiming at participation of the **pupils, parents, and even government officers!**



For those of you who have supported the program, we would like you to know that we have almost reached the target of **500 scholarships** for Dúc Linh. We are trying to assist the poorest 2% of the pupils there, at the rate of 9 euros per pupil and per semester. In Tánh Linh, the 2nd district where Việt Nam Plus operates, we will organize the "marathon" on September 21st, and are aiming at minimum of 10.000 participants.

The goal of Việt Nam Plus is **participatory development**: nothing is given free, everything is done together. The programs must be sustainable. The beneficiaries are chosen carefully, by the schools and the village workers. The children of teachers and cadres are excluded. After grade three some pupils drop out, they cannot pay, and they head towards more poverty.

Việt Nam Plus also tries to help the schools to **improve the education** that is provided, by introducing active pedagogy.



¹ A few kilometers

Less learning by heart, and more participation of all pupils. Every week they brush their teeth all together on the school playground. The project did not provide the toothbrushes, they bought them by themselves, and most of them did not have one. They also learn about hygiene and how to prevent malaria... In one year, their **health had improved**, and further progress is monitored every year. A group of teachers has been elected: together with Việt Nam Plus, it visits all schools and chooses the best three: they are rewarded with financial help to help build latrines, a well...

We count on you. Come to Vietnam and run with us, or send us your contribution!

Receive our best wishes!

Bernard KERVYN
September 4th, 2003



Your questions, encouragements, supports are most welcomed! Come in contact with us:

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<u>donations</u>	via a cheque, to send to the above address and to the order of Việt Nam Plus, or via a bank transfer to 45499-06450-00028339041-86 <i>(any donation, whatever the amount, benefits from a fiscal certificate)</i>	210-0471566-04 c/o Secours International Caritas rue de la Charité, 72 B – 1210 Bruxelles mention « Việt Nam Plus » <i>(any gift of 30 € or more benefits from a fiscal certificate)</i>	# 3019305 swift: ANZBNNVX472 ANZ Square Me Linh, Ho Chi Minh Việt Nam
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