

Traversing Borders: Viet Nam Teacher Training Program  
2002  
Nha Trang, Viet Nam



In the welcome page of the Training Manual for “Traversing Borders: Viet Nam Teacher Training Program Summer 2002” we presented to our Vietnamese language teachers the theme of our training: Peace. “We choose ‘Peace’ as the main theme for the training because ‘Peace’ is universal and embodies our hope and dream for a world in which we can all live in harmony with our families, neighbors, countries and nature.”

Within two intensive weeks in the balmy weather of Nha Trang, one of the most beautiful coastal provinces of Viet Nam, thirty-two Vietnamese teachers from Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City and Vung Tau and two educators from the U.S. engaged in teaching and learning in the classroom, on the streets and during the field trips. They formed a learning community to explore the theme of peace through literature, arts and music while improving their English teaching skills. In *Peace begins with me* we read a passage from Sandra Cisneros’ *The House on Mango Street*, Sherry Garland’s *The Lotus Seed* and *Dreams* by Hughes Langston. The American landscape was introduced with Ansel Adams’ photographs and Georgia O’Keeffe’s paintings. *Peace as relationship* was brought about with Marie Cassatt’s paintings of children and families. The teachers experienced a readers’ theater with a passage from *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. In *Peace as people* and *Peace as a clear vision* they heard the voice of Martin Luther King, Jr., read Walt Whitman and Maya Angelou. They learned about Maya Lin, the architect who designed the Viet Nam Memorial at the age of 19.

We sang songs of Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan and John Lennon. The teachers became poets, writers and music composers through their own creation. They culminated the training with The Peace Quilt, a collective artwork depicting their wish for the world. The Peace Quilt was dedicated to the school at the closing ceremony.

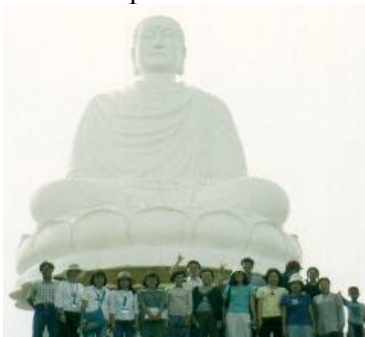
## Opening



## In Class



## Field Trips





## Making the Peace Quilt



## Closing Ceremony



Teachers from Ho Chi Minh City Industrial College IV



Teachers from Navy Academy



Teachers from Nha Trang University of Fishery



Teachers from Center for Foreign Languages, Vung Tau



Teachers from Nha Trang Preparatory College for Ethnic Students



## CHEER-Y MOMENTS

“The Summer 2002 two-week Viet Nam Teacher Training Program has left in me a great impression. Thanks to the instructors, Mrs. Lillian Utsumi and Mrs. Doan Thi Nam-Hau, I have learned a lot from their useful and interesting materials, which helped me explore themes through literature, music and arts. CHEER gave us a chance to learn, to enjoy ourselves, to share our hopes and dreams for peace. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to CHEER in general and to my instructors in particular for what they have done.

At the end of the CHEER program, I feel eager to go to class for teaching. I can apply a variety of new techniques learned in program to my dear students effectively. Before joining the program, I often go to class and teach in a serious way. Now I know the best way to teach is the teacher should go to class with a sense of humor: Students will enjoy the lessons more.

I'd like to know more about American culture and American system of education. I'd like to be given a clear vision of American techniques of teaching in some famous schools.

With two key teacher trainers of CHEER program we finished the course successfully. We laughed a lot when we read the poems, the lyrics of our own stuck on the wall. We learned a lot from your way of working. Will we have the next program with the latest techniques of teaching? Will we have a variety of textbooks that are popular in America?

Mrs. Lam Thi Hoa  
Nha Trang Preparatory College for Ethnic Students

“CHEER – Once for Ever

Sharing the time with CHEER was wonderful and unforgettable. It is such a joyful and valuable [opportunity] for us. To join in classes with qualified and professional teachers like Dr. Lillian and Dr. Nam-Hau is just what we are longing for. Your enthusiasm and devotion are always a good example for us to follow and we would appreciate most. We would like to say thank. We are grateful to CHEER and Ha Noi University of Foreign Studies especially to Dr. Lillian and Dr. Nam-Hau. We wish to have a chance to join your class again.

Mr. Nguyen Van Chung  
Ho Chi Minh City Industrial Collge #4

“I think I am lucky to attend this fresh course organized by CHEER program. I have just enjoyed something new, useful in English teaching methods, on strategies such as: Popcorn and Choral Reading, Journal Writing, Star Graphic Organizer or Vein Diagram. I hope more and more teachers of Viet Nam will benefit from the program. I highly appreciate Mrs. Lillian and Nam-Hau's efforts during this training course.”

Mr. Nguyen Trung Binh  
Nha Trang Preparatory College for Ethnic Students

“Thanks to CHEER, for two weeks I have improved my English language especially. CHEER helps me so much in my teaching later. That is not the first teaching training program I've attended, however, I find it quite differs from what I learned before. This course is very useful, very active and really interesting, so that we can internalize the knowledge easily and partly because the main theme for the training. The course is a good chance to make friends and share teaching experiences with others. How interesting and valuable course! I hope I will apply all the technique, strategies, methods that I've learned from you, Lillian and Nam-Hau—our dear teachers—in my teaching.”

"I have never taken part in a teacher training program like this. This course made me happy. I have a chance to meet American teachers and good teachers from different parts of our country. And also I have a chance to express what I want and I know and what I hadn't known. Thanks to CHEER, I learn a lot of things from foreign teachers. My teachers are very kind and friendly. I'll never forget the teachers who helped me a lot in finding the good way to teach English effectively. This training course will be in my mind."

Ms. Pham Thi Le Giang  
Nha Trang Navy Institute



## Reflection

### A Peace Quilt

I missed the first class where my teachers and colleagues had built up a theme for the course. I greeted the class with "My Name" and then went on with "Dreams," "The Lotus Seed," "Blowing in the Wind," and Ansel Adams and Georgia O'Keefe, and Sadako, and...I enjoyed every moment working with my class. I loved the lessons without ever wondering what they are all about or, if they all share "A THING" in common.

The question and answer rushed to me all at once when I was asked to work out a picture and when the quilt of our class came out. The Quilt housed a moving reflection of Huong, Hoa, Binh..., our colleagues, with the background is Lillian and Nam-Hau, the teachers who had intended to make alive this beautiful feeling in our hearts. Yes, that is PEACE. That's what shared among "dreams," "One Light One Sun," and the paper cranes of Sadako, and "I Have a Dream," and "Imagine," ...That's what made me love all the lessons quite naturally, quite unconsciously.

Tomorrow, I know I'll have the chance to look at the Quilt again. And I know that our humble work of arts has already been carefully and neatly framed by the loving care of our teachers, who have sewn the blue silk thread of PEACE through all what we learnt. Tomorrow, hands in hands around the Quilt, we'll sing "One light one sun' one world one home, one world home for everyone..." And the Quilt is our wish for the world."

Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngan  
Nha Trang University of Fisheries



## I Have a Dream (A Wish for the World)

I always dream about a world in which all the nations and people would speak only one language. Why do I have that dream? The answer is simple. A common language is designed to help people from different countries communicate with each other.

I dream that all the nations of the world will sit down together to express and exchange ideas concerning our aims and determination to save our succeeding generations from the scourge of a third world war. In my dream there will not be any widows and orphans with mourning headbands over their heads. It will be a world of joy and happiness. It is a world of peace.

My dream is that all the governments around the world will use their best measures to reaffirm their faith in fundamental rights, in equal rights of both men and women, as mentioned in the introduction to the United Nations Charter. The present situation of some areas in the world, for example, the religious war between Israel and Palestine, the border battles between India and Pakistan, make my dream more vivid and urgent.

I dream that every nation will make effort to stand behind the United Nations to maintain international peace, to improve friendly relations among the nations, to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and human problems, and especially, to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It will be a world in which you can see white doves flutter up into the blue sky and the five continents linked together just like the five rings of the Olympic games symbol.

My dream is that, besides the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, there will be another statue of Liberty and a statue of Equal Rights in every city of the world, to assert that everyone, rich or poor, is equal before God.

To make all these wishes and aspirations come true, all the peoples of the world should work together in a friendly atmosphere. For this common aim, what could be more effective than having everybody speaking the same language? If people speak the same language, there will be no risk of doubt, suspicion or misunderstanding among humankind. Everybody will understand everyone else. There will be no need of translators or interpreters to make things progress at peace talk. Peace treaties and agreements will be read through quickly and easily with good sympathy and forbearance. Volunteers speaking the same language as anybody else will be able to carry out programs daily and canvass for peace movements all around the world in the most effective way. It will be a paradise in this world. I dream that all the borders between countries will be abolished to make all of us sit close together and love each other as brothers."

