SPEECH OF EDUCATION & TRAINING WORKING GROUP

Presented by Mr. Brian O'Reilly Working Group Head

Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentleman

New skills for new jobs within Industry 4.0 can only be achieved with a modern and forward looking education system. As mentioned in our June presentation, preparing human resources for Industry 4.0 and the effects of emerging technologies need to be successfully addressed in order for Vietnam to continue to be prosperous.

This presentation will focus on the following areas:

- The Higher Education Law,
- Decree 86,
- Decree 143 The Law on Social Insurance, and
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

1. The Higher Education Law

The steps in the legal procedures to set up the private universities, including foreign invested capital universities, are as follows:

- i. Establish the legal entity under the law on enterprise, and
- ii. Establish the university/educational institutions.

There are some outstanding issues that are causing confusion and that have not been stipulated clearly in the draft law including, but not limited to, the legal status of the foreign investment enterprise and also the university as both the enterprise and university have a separate legal status.

2. Decree 86

Foreign investment in education and training in vital to bring the required knowledge and skills to Vietnam. This investment helps prepare human resources to be effective for Industry 4.0 and these foreign institutions will both compliment and collaborate with Vietnamese institutions that are already adapting to the challenges and needs of the new economy.

We would like to request that MoET expedites the drafting of the Circular guiding Decree No. 86. This will provide clear understanding of what is expected from educational institutions and what

they need to do with regards to implementation. Many schools are facing great difficulties when working with authorities to amend their licenses because of the lack of a guiding Circular.

3. Decree 143 - Law on Social Insurance

This decree provides a guide as to how to enforce the Law on Social Insurance. Under this decree, most foreigners working in Vietnam shall be subject to compulsory social insurance. This decree has a major impact on many educational institutions as they employ a substantial number of foreign staff. There are a number of issues with regards to this decree and we recommend that these issues, provided to you through other chambers and working groups, are scrutinised and addresses in a satisfactory fashion for all stakeholders.

4. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

The new law on Vocational Education and Training is an important step in improving TVET in Vietnam. Much work has already been carried out in conjunction with local and overseas agencies. Continued collaboration through active working groups, coordinated by MoLISA, would ensure that the impact of this work is more effective.

We would like to request that MOLISA and the Government approve the revised Decree to replace the Decree No. 48 relating to the operation of foreign invested colleges. It has been reviewed by Government over the past two years. However, the reviewing process has been protracted and is affecting the operations of all colleges. The General Directorate of Vocational Training is not accepting applications for conversion with the justification that they are waiting for the revised Decree No. 48.

5. Conclusion

The ability of the Vietnamese education systems to deliver quality education and provide their students the new skills for the new jobs up to and including Industry 4.0 is very important. This requires a robust education system and the strong leadership of the Vietnamese Government and especially MoET and MoLISA. The issues raised in this paper highlight areas that could be improved to make the education system more effective and efficient.

The Education and Training Working Group, through the VBF, will continue, in cooperation with both MoET and MoLISA, with its commitment to improve education and training in Vietnam. We look forward to witnessing development and progress in the above areas and again would like to thank the VBF for inviting us to contribute to this important forum.