

Writing for: SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award
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Dear friends,

As we all know that Southeast Asian nations have tropical weather and severe climate. Our country has to face to many natural disasters and suffer from its awful consequence. In the beginning of 1990s, the United Nations warned that “deforestation will push the Southeast Asian nations into many problems of global warming and be at risk of flooding, earthquake, tornado, ...”.

Vietnam is one of the countries that has to confront to many disasters, especially flooding is the most common one. In the Central of Vietnam, for my hometown – Quang Nam Province, it happens at least twice a year. The flood caused damage to human being estimated at hundreds or more. Especially, there is an increase in children drowning while the concern of our society about this issue is still restrictive.

Mr. Phung Ngoc Hung – the vice minister of the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs has announced, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Health, there are about 10 children (aged from 1 to 19) dying of drowning on average a day. The fact is in urgent situations, children in general, especially toddlers are vulnerable objects because of flooding. To face against this warning situation, it is very vital to spread propaganda the children drowning

situation. By this way, parents can aware of the hazard that their children are facing to.

My school, Ly Tu Trong secondary school in Tam Ky City also lies on a complicated location which is an intersection of rivers and streams and has flood erratically. In order to support the effort of minimizing the risks of drowning in students, Tam Ky City Education Department also focus on directing the propaganda to raise the awareness of this for students and their parents .

Hence in 2011-2012, Ly Tu Trong secondary school with our conditions and abilitities, has applied the elective program of Ministry of Education and Training which has swimming into classes, according to 2330 enactment of Quang Nam Education and Training organization about *“Organizing of teaching swimming to prevent students from drowning”*, and we held these classes for 6 grade pupils at 6 AM everyday.

Due to good propaganda, relationship with parents and mutual agreement of three parties: the school, parents and the Central Youth and Teenage Centre, our organizing of swimming class for about 300 students was conducted smoothly with our gymmasters directions.



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It was a practical and useful program, not only reduce the risk of drowning but also helps our students improve their health to reach a good result in study and physical condition. Therefore, all of students were eager to learn swimming. According to our statistics in the end of the first semester, about 60% of students could swim, and in the end of the year, this number increased in 98%, so that in the next 3 years (2014-2015 year) 100% of our students are able to swim through the program. It was the first successful case in Tam Ky City, and there were other schools in our location applying the program as well. Furthermore, about this topic, Mang Non propaganda team in Ly Tu Trong middle high school gained the excellent award among 10 provinces and cities in the competition “Prevent children from wound and drowning by accidents” which was held in Da Nang in last January 2012 by the Youth Central Committee.



The propagators of Ly Tu Trong secondary school Tam Ky City - Quang Nam

These are experiences which I would like to share among schools and communities in Southeast Asia about practical classes to raise awareness of reducing the children dying of drowning, and I always hope to receive your sharing and sympathies to build a safe environment and make a more beautiful life for children in our area.

In all sincerity

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To raise awareness of Education for Disaster Risk Reduction among schools and communities in Southeast Asia;