

Report

Vietnam to Piteå September 2012

Gerd Sävenstedt – October 2012



Background

9 people from An Giang with Mrs. Xuan Pham Ngoc as the team leader came to Piteå on September 9. It was her second visit to Piteå. For the rest it was their first time. They were accommodated at a hostel in the town center . The others were



Mr Pha



Mr Trung



Mr Loc

Mr. Đoàn Ngọc Phả - Deputy Director at the department of Agriculture and Rural Development,

Mr. Võ Chí Trung – specialist at the department of Planning and Investment,

Mr. Phạm Bảo Lộc - specialist at the department of Science and Technology,



Mr Giang



Miss Dung



Mr Can

Mr. Trần Trường Giang - Deputy director at the department of Information and Communication,

Ms. Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Dung - social director for The Farmers Association,

Mr. Lê Nguyễn Cẩn – specialist at the department of protect environment,



Mrs Kieu



Ms Tuyen



Mrs Xuan

Mrs. Lý Thị thanh Tuyền - vice director of Economic office, An Giang People's Committee,

Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Minh Kiều - deputy director of The department of Information and Communication

Preparations

During our visit in Vietnam in March 2012, Peter Roslund and I met candidates in order to see if their English skills were enough to communicate and benefit from a visit in Piteå. Those chosen by the Vietnamese management team later on stated their expectation for a visit in Piteå. In the process of preparing the program this was one part taken into consideration.

In August the project group from Piteå met in order to finalize the program and prepare for practical things that needed to be in place. There were two parts in the program; one common and one more individualized due to their roles and expectations.

Program

9/9 Picked up at the airport, accommodation and evening meal at a Thai restaurant

10/9 Reception at the town hall

- presentation of each one- professional role at home and role in the project,
- presentation of Piteå,
- presentation of the project,
- up- date from An Giang and Piteå



A rescue boat brought us to Svinöra (Pigear) where the boat club has a club house

The first afternoon we spent by doing a common exercise with a theme “working in international relations”. The first part was labeled “what are the challenges we are facing” and the things brought up were; languages/pronunciation, time differences, distance, cultural differences/backgrounds, different working processes, different view, find time for work and the project and lack of confidence.

The second part was labeled “What is important in order to make our project successful?” Based on this session a vision for the project was formulated and accepted.

In our project we have an **open communication** and **aiming for the same goal**. All involved in the project have an **understanding** of the objectives, for our partners and of the responsibilities.



Work and pleasure strengthening the relations

11/11 Fieldtrip and Science Park



To a wind farm



Hortlax



and Kappa paper mill

The afternoon was spent with Johan Hedin, member of the MC and project leader at Solander Science Park. The focus was cluster network and how to build a science park. The focus for Solander Science Park is networking with different kinds of forums, lectures and seminars, arrange for incubation in the area of renewable energy, help to commercialize research and arrange contacts with research funders, venture capitalists and investors.



12/11 -13/9

The program for these days was more individualized and the group was split into three according to their expectations and role in the project.

1) **Recycling – waste- energy.**

Mr. Bo, director for the agricultural upper secondary schools in the county was the host for the day. Mr. Loc, Mr. Can, Miss Dung and Mrs. Xuan participated. This group except Mrs Xuan visited Thursday morning a big pig farm hosted by Maria Widman.

2) **Policies, strategies**

The second theme was hosted by Mr. Leif Wågman and Mr Trung, Mr Pha, Ms. Tuyen, and Miss Kieu participated. This group worked on Thursday with Mrs. Åsa in order to make a base for the climate and energy plan that is going to be developed.

3) **Systems to interact with citizens and organizations**

This was hosted by Mr. Lars-Olof and Mr. Giang participated. Mrs Xuan and Mr. Giang worked with GIS on Thursday morning.



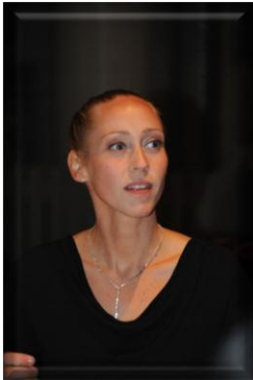
A fieldtrip to a couple of farmers was on the program. At one a small bio gas plant was under construction which would make the farm self-sufficient

14/9

This day the lunch was at Strömbackaskolan, where the students at the school of restaurants- and hotel had made a lunch with a local touch. The afternoon was hosted by Mrs. Anna-Lena for the whole group and was focusing on citizenship and participation of the citizens in the development of the local community.



This evening it was an official dinner where the project group, and other guests were invited. The dinner was hosted by Mr Mats Berg, the chief executive officer.



Maria Widman



Jan Dahl



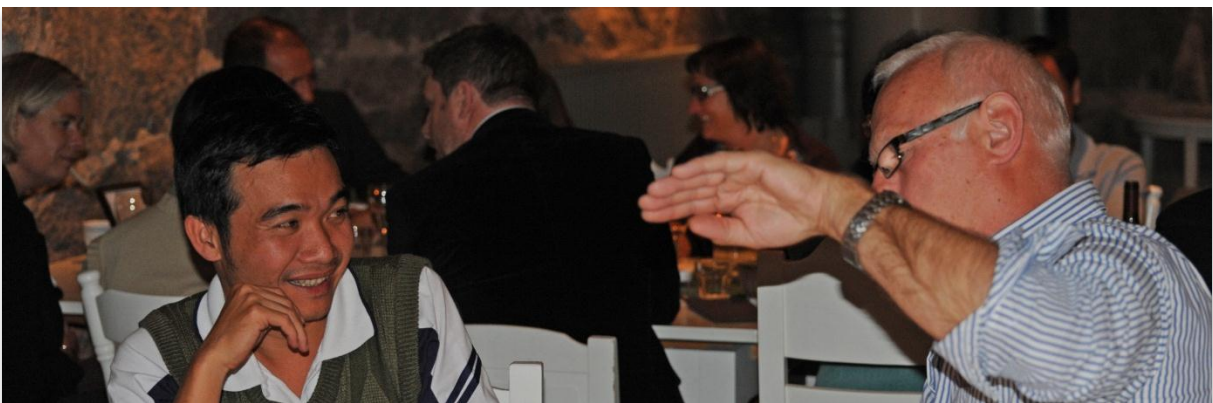
Mrs Xuan Mats Berg



Mr Loc

Friday: Wrap –up session

1. Agenda; Reflections and report from the week



Vision

“In our project we have an **open communication** and **aiming for the same goal**. All involved in the project have an **understanding** of the objectives, for our partners and of the responsibilities”.



Solander Science Park

Kappa

First there was a study visit to Kappa, a paper mill. For the group it was a new kind of factory and one reflection was that there are only a few who are monitoring and managing the whole process. It was also interesting to hear about the cooperation with enterprises developing environmental friendly fuels.



Solander;

The presentation gave a lot of ideas regarding a science park in a Vietnamese context. Johan Hedin who is responsible for the Science Park in Piteå stressed the importance of having one responsible person for the activities. The Science Park is an important tool when it comes to

Cluster network- cooperation between, enterprises- municipality - university

The contact persons when it comes to Cluster network are Johan Hedin in Piteå and Mr Luc in An Giang. Hopefully the role of a cluster network in Vietnam became a bit clearer.

Agriculture part – a new project?

One group visited Grans agricultural school, dairy/cattle farms and a big pig farm. For development and sustainability a calculation tool is used at many Swedish farms. FAO has developed similar tools



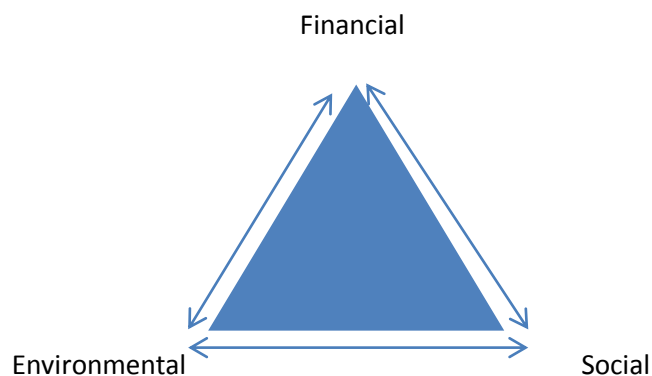
for rice production. One part of the tool makes analyzes which are useful for treatment of the soil in order to make it more productive and environmental friendly.

The tool was presented and discussed from a Vietnamese perspective and how it can be used in a Vietnamese context. In Sweden, crop rotation is used in farming, but in Vietnam rice is farmed year after year in the same fields, which contribute to impoverish the fields. When it was clear that the rice straws can be used as fertilizers it gave a lot of ideas for future cooperation. This can be a new application to ICLD.

The study visits at the different farms gave new thought related to bio gas. Miss Dung will contact Maria for this issue.

Planning part

One group spent Wednesday with Mr. Leif Wågman where planning was in focus and relations between financial, social and environmental aspects and how they affect each other.



The outcome of the discussions was that while planning for sustainability all three aspects have to be taken into consideration and the relation between those three.

GIS

Thursday morning Mr. Giang and Mrs. Xuan spend time with Mr. Krister regarding the use of GIS. A process started and it was decided that Mr. Kristers counterpart in Vietnam should be Mr. Giang. Later on it became clear that Mr. Giang will be away in HCMC for studies and it might create problems.



Certain aspect for the questionnaire that is under construction was agreed on. The object will be commune instead of rice fields and the number of attributes for a commune will be extended. It was decided that there would be an online meeting regarding the questionnaire and Mr. Giang and Krister will continue the discussions about a database.

We agreed on the following process

Mr. Bo will provide Mrs. Xuan with some information about what information is need in the first step. When they have agreed Mr. Krister and Mr. Giang will take the next step. In order to test the tool people will be sent out to collect data which will be forwarded to Mr. Giang and Mr. Krister.

Mr. Giang also has the responsibility to see that the geographic position of the rice mills will be collected.

Rice- dryers

There are a number of rice dryers in the area. It is important to find out the location of the dryers. In order to make a survey among them there is a need for extra people for the mission. In An Giang they should find out if they can use the "An Giang budget" for that purpose. Another suggestion was to find out the number of dryers and just survey a few and then multiply it with the number of dryers in the Phu Tan district. Krister will invite Mr. Giang as soon as possible for an online meeting.

Communication

TeamViewer

Routines for online-meeting have been agreed on and it was decided that there would be a briefing of the routines both in Vietnam and in Piteå before the end of October. Those who haven't sent their g-mail address to Lars-Olof should do that. During Mr. Giangs visit at the IT department the focus was on technical solutions, organization and e-services. There was a suggestion to have training classes in Phu Tan for increasing their computer skills.

For the common website for An Giang, Växjö and Piteå Växjö is contacted to deliver information

Google documents

We agreed that we should use it more than we are doing



Citizenship

Mrs. Anna-Lena met the group under the theme citizenship – the citizens’ dialogue in practice. In Piteå the citizens’ dialogue is a natural part of the planning process. The discussions were about how to build a dialogue and were looked at from a local, national and global perspective. Examples from different methods used in Piteå were given and also examples from how the results are used in development of municipal services. Reflections were also done from a Vietnamese context and perspective.

Climate and Energy plan

The mission and challenge for both Piteå and An Giang is to contribute to an attractive and sustainable community and therefore a climate- and energy plan is needed. Piteå has one which will be revised in 2014 and one will be developed for Phu Tan.

One group started a work together with Mrs. Åsa in order to make an outline for a climate- and energy plan. There is a need to continue this work as soon as possible. The first question that needs to be answered is “what is the time perspective for the plan”.

Our workplan – where are we?

Xuan and Gerd have to have a telephone meeting concerning this as soon as possible.



What did we learn?

It is important also to have fun together. The week was filled by work but we also had a few possibilities to relax together and get to know each other better.



Understanding

We on the Swedish side realized that there is a lot of competence among those who participate in the project from the Vietnamese side. As most team members in the Vietnamese group were new they had a limited understanding of the project and expressed that they during this week had increased their understanding, which of course is important.

It is also important that we all have an overview of the project and can see how the different parts are linked together in order being able to carry out the project. At the same time from each profession it is also important to have a contact person in the same profession in order to develop the different areas.

Meeting face to face

It is important with these face - to- face meetings. We don't have to rush, we get a better understanding and we can discuss without technical obstacles, which is important as we have some languages barriers. As we have met it also makes the distance meetings easier and more valuable. We still need to improve our distance meetings and we can see that the distance meetings works when there are few involved.

Language barriers

One of the bigger challenges is that we have very different intonations when it comes to English. This means that it sometimes is very hard to understand each other. It takes time to tune in. But we can also see that for every time we meet the language barriers decreases and we are more relaxed with each other.

Responsibilities and roles

It is only me as the project leader who has time set aside for working with the project. It means that all, both on the Swedish and the Vietnamese side, have to do most of the work on their spare-time, or let over time. This is a problem. To work in a project like this takes time and each partner involved need to have some time set aside.

Even if Piteå is the formal owner of the project it is important to have the roles and responsibilities clear for both partners, so things agreed on will be done. It is important that deadlines are kept, that the timetable of activities are followed etc.

Report writing

It is also important that both sides write reports from a week like this because in writing it makes it clearer what we in our minds finds to be most important.

“Hang-overs”

Change of staff

Mr. Giang will be away for studies. Someone needs to replace him as the contact person with

- Gis
- Webb

Following the time table

At the MC meeting a time table was agreed on and so far many of the activities have not been executed accordingly. There might be many reasons to that and I suggest that it will be a standing agenda item at our monthly team viewer meetings. But all project members has to be aware of the time table and report to Xuan or me if it need to be changed.

App. 1- The Vietnamese report