

THE AUSTRALIA - VIETNAM FUTURE EDUCATION FORUM

“National Foreign Languages 2020 Project:
Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions

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Nguyen Ngoc Hung
National Foreign Languages 2020 Project, MOET
nnhung@moet.edu.vn

A. Challenges

1. Foreign languages are taught as a subject at schools and colleges (98% study English, 2% for Russian, Chinese, French, German and Japanese ...)
2. Students can not communicate or use English in their study after 7 years at school and 2 more years at college
3. Teachers at both primary and secondary need improvement in language proficiency and teaching methodologies (62,000 secondary English teachers plus 24,000 for primary education from grade 3).
4. Classrooms are over crowded (45 or 50 sts/class)

A. Challenges

5. Equipments are available with no or limited software
6. Teaching and learning are geared toward exams with main focus on grammar and translation
7. No professional organizations to advise government, MOET and provide professional supports for teachers
8. Teachers' salary is too low, especially for primary teachers
9. Working and learning environment, recruitment and employment policies neglect requirements for language proficiency and teaching methodology.

A. Challenges

10. Employability Skills 2000+ (Canada) and others rank Communication Skills as # 1 Fundamental skills:

- Read and understand information presented in a number of forms (e.g. words, graphs, charts, diagrams)
- Write and speak so other pay attention and understand
- Listen and ask questions to understand and appreciate the points of view of others
- Share information using a range of information and communications technologies (e.g. voice, email, computers)
- Use relevant scientific, technological, mathematic knowledge and skills to explain or clarify ideas

B. Opportunities

1. Strong commitment from Ministries, Government and highly demanded by students and parents
2. Teachers and students are aware of the importance of foreign languages, especially English, for professional development and career
3. English is the language of ASEAN Community, for higher education mobility, for trade and business after Vietnam joined the WTO
4. Government's new investment in the National Foreign Language Project from 2008-2020
5. Speedy development of technology: free broadband connection for all schools, 1 million low cost laptops for students

B. Opportunities

6. Internet, Broadband connections, WikiCALL, British Council' English website, U.S English portal, commercial software, cable TV, 1 million PC
7. New government regulations for PPP open up possibility for good projects
8. Strong international cooperations and partnerships with international organizations (scholarships, teacher development and training, specialists etc.
9. New investment in National Teacher Development Centre, teacher training colleges and universities

The NFL 2020 Project

Decision **1400/QĐ-TTg** dated 30 September, 2008 of the Prime Minister on the Approval of the Project entitled “Teaching and Learning Foreign Languages in the National Education System, Period 2008-2020”

Goal:

“... by 2020 most Vietnamese students graduating from secondary, vocational schools, colleges and universities will be able to use a foreign language confidently in their daily communication, their study and work in an integrated, multi-cultural and multi-lingual environment, making foreign languages a comparative advantage of development for Vietnamese people in the cause of industrialization and modernization for the country”.

Tasks

1. Establish Vietnam's language proficiency framework consisting of 6 levels to be compatible with the Common European Framework of Reference
2. Implement new compulsory English programs at schools: Primary school level 1 (A1) lower secondary school level 2 (A2); upper secondary school, college and university at level 3 (B1).
3. Encourage schools to develop bi-lingual programs
4. Introduce a second foreign language to schools from grade 6 to grade 12 at level 2 (A2) (French, Chinese, Japanese, German, Korean, Russian...)
5. Teach Maths and science in English at upper secondary schools (French programs now in year 15).

Tasks

6. Implement new language program for college and university students at level 3 (B1) upon graduation.
7. Students from English programs at (three-year colleges) must reach level 4 upon graduation and four-year universities level 5 (C1).
8. Core, specialization and elective courses at national and regional, prioritized universities and programs are taught in English in final years at universities.
9. Apply the same standards and proficiency levels for the non-formal education system.
10. Renovate methods of assessment and testing (4 skills).

Project Schedule

Phase 1: 2008 – 2010:

1. Develop new curriculum and text books for schools
2. Evaluate teachers' proficiency and their training needs
3. 2010 All provinces and cities shall complete their plan of the ten-year implementation of the Decision.
4. Issue guidelines on working environment that facilitates frequent and effective use of foreign languages.
5. Attract overseas Vietnamese and volunteer teachers from abroad.
6. Start teaching all advanced programs at universities in English;

Project Schedule

Phase 2: 2011 - 2015:

1. Continue with the recruitment, training, upgrading of language proficiency for language teachers at different level;
2. Provide equipment for schools and key colleges and universities;
3. Launch the ten-year language program for schools;
4. Implement intensive language training programs for IT, banking, finance, tourism and business areas at universities;
5. Implement the teaching of Math and science in English at in upper secondary schools.
6. Parts of courses in the senior years at national universities, regional universities and other key universities will be offered in English.

C. Major Solutions

1. Teachers development is the key to the success of the Project:

- a. Develop “Language Teachers Professional Qualification Framework and Benchmarks”
- b. Develop National Teacher Development Centers and invest in technical teacher training universities
- c. Develop new Teacher Development Programs for Primary English teachers
- d. Renovate Teacher Training Programs at all teacher training colleges and universities
- e. Send 200 English teachers for PhD study overseas, 7,000-10,000 language teachers for Post Graduate Diplomas, Master degree or short term training overseas; 5,000 subject teachers from colleges and universities for 12 to 20 week language and professional development overseas.
- f. Train and retrain language teachers, examiners
- g. Train school masters, language experts at DOETs overseas.

62,000 GV + 10.000 GVTH

Mater Trainers

DOETs, TTC, TTU, FLC

8 RTDCs for 8 Economic Regions

**Teacher Qualification
Standards**

PMU NFLP2020

**National Steering Committee
NFLP 20202020**

C. Major Solutions

2. Intensive language programs for

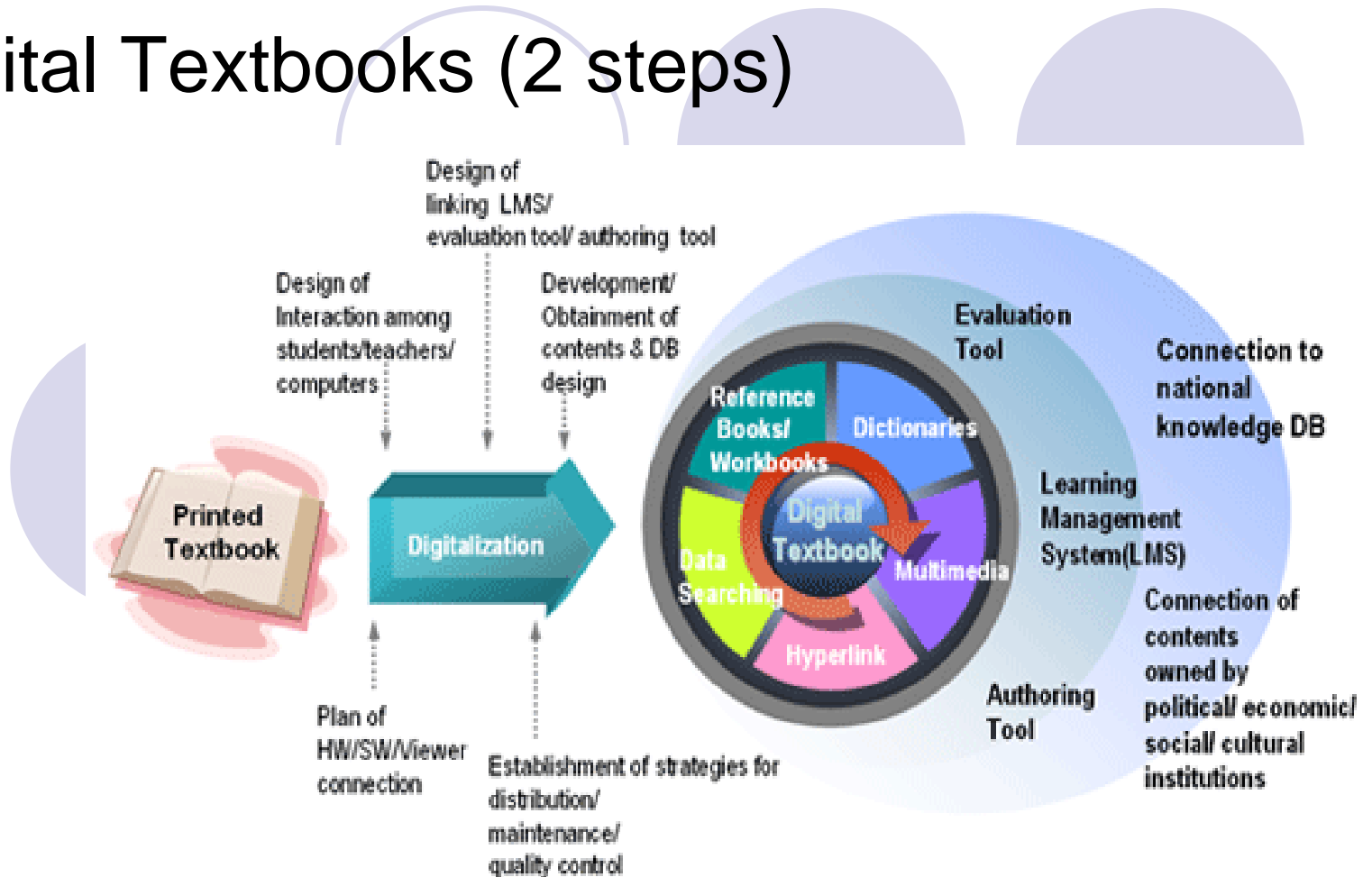
a. Vocational education

b. Technical colleges

c. Professional and elective subjects at university level taught in English or in other languages

C. Major Solutions

3. Digital Textbooks (2 steps)



C. Major Solutions

4. Incentives and policies:

- a. Review, amend, revise mechanism, regulation and policy to encourage the teaching and learning of foreign languages in the national education system.
- b. Revise policies on investment for language training institutions; equipment
- c. Issue regulations on the teaching and learning, testing and evaluation; language certification and degrees; encourage the establishment of qualified foreign language training centers and institutions.

C. Major Solutions

5. International Cooperation:

- a. Mobilize more foreign investment into the teaching and learning foreign language (WB, ADB projects)
- b. Encourage education institutions to establish international partnership with foreign institutions and set up exchange programs for teachers and students.
- c. Develop policies to promote international cooperation to attract overseas Vietnamese teachers and foreign experts to teach in Vietnam.
- d. Promote educational exchange, scholarship programs for both teachers and students
- e. Promote the teaching and learning of European languages at universities and schools in Vietnam

C. Major Solutions

6. Create language environment:

- a. Create favorable environment English learning for young people
- b. Promote social awareness, especially of young generation, on the importance of English
- c. Develop LLL environment for language learners;
- d. Make foreign language a requirement in recruitment process for governmental officials;
- e. Introduce quality TV and radio programs, websites, wikicall, newspapers, magazines, music and art performances and English language competitions;
- f. Establishment of VIETESOL, English clubs etc.



THANK YOU
KÍNH CHỨC SỨC KHỎE QUÝ VỊ ĐẠI BIỂU