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**Assessment of capability, knowledge and skill of
vocational school graduates: A basis for enhanced
industry-academe cooperation**

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

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July 2013

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On completion of this study, the author has received significant support and collaboration from many organizations and individuals.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the leader team and the staff of ten universities and colleges of MOIT, including Hanoi University of Industry, Ho Chi Minh City University of Food Industry, Ho Chi Minh City University of Industry, Hue Industrial College, Nam Dinh Industrial College, Vietnam-Germany Industrial College, Industrial Economic – Technology College, College of Industrial Techniques, Constructional and Industrial College, Vocational College of Commerce as well as Vocational College of Agricultural Mechanics (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) and Vietnam-Korea Vocational College of Engineering (Nghe An province) for sharing information and cooperating in the survey.

I have to acknowledge the contributions of my colleagues and students at Hanoi University of Industry in the process of distributing and collecting questionnaires from over 230 enterprises. Without this support, I could not have gathered such huge database for research and analysis.

I would like to express my appreciation to the support from the leaders of Hanoi University of Industry. The university has created necessary conditions including time, budget and other priorities for me to complete the DBA course and the final thesis on time. Thanks for the support and encouragement from the fellows and teachers at Hanoi University of Industry, especially comments on expertise from colleagues in Faculty of Business Administration.

A special thanks goes to Thai Nguyen University and Southern Luzon State University for their cooperation in this training program which provides me with an opportunity to participate in and conduct the project that I have long cherished.

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep regards to my guide Dr. A. Walberto Macaraan from Southern Luzon State University for his exemplary guidance, monitoring and constant encouragement throughout the course of this thesis.

Last but not least, many thanks go to my family. They are always beside me and encourage me through the duration of my studies. I am also indebted this achievement to my beloved wife and two daughters for their great help and support.

Sincerely thank you.

July 2013

Ha Xuan Quang

DEED OF DECLARATION

I, **Quang HA XUAN.**, hereby submit my Dissertation for oral examination, entitled **“Assessment of capability, knowledge and skill of vocational school graduates: A basis for enhanced industry-academe cooperation”**, truthfully declare that the said paper is a product of my original research investigation. The data presented in the paper have clear origin.

Dr. candidate

Ha Xuan Quang

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ABSTRACT

In Vietnam, the quality of vocational training has not yet met the actual requirements of the enterprises. One of the causes of this situation goes to the lack of efficient and close cooperation between vocational schools and enterprises.

With the use of interview, survey and collection of expert opinions, the author has conducted a study on a sample of 233 enterprises for their comments on the knowledge and skills of graduates (majoring either in Mechanics or Electrics/ Electronics). A sample of some vocational schools has also been on research about the conditions to ensure the quality of vocational training. The author has also studied some current school-industry cooperation programs and their impact on the knowledge and skills of vocational school graduates. On completion of the dissertation, the author has collected and analysed the opinions from both sides, schools and businesses, about the benefits of cooperation, the factors hindering the development of cooperation and the desire/willingness of the enterprises to cooperate with schools. From the research and analysis of the opinions of both sides, the author has also proposed some solutions to the development of cooperating programs in order to improve the quality of vocational training (in terms of the knowledge and skills of graduates).

Followings are new findings of the dissertation through research:

1. The capability, knowledge and skills of graduates from vocational schools do not meet the requirements of the job. Businesses deliver the lowest assessment for such skills as organizing in production, communicating, team-working and problem-solving. This situation also applies for graduates' knowledge and skills in statistics, English, CNC, PIC, PLC programming, electric/electronic circuit designing and modern equipment operating.

2. Current conditions at schools affecting capability, knowledge and skills of graduates include factors that insure quality of vocational training. Among these factors, the shortage of updated training content and teachers visiting business environment as well as the lack in quality and quantity of technology equipment are most concerned.

3. There are three (03) groups of cooperating program between vocational schools and businesses, namely information exchange, resources supply and exchange, and vocational training plan design. Arrangement of internship for students at businesses is the most popular and most regular industry-academy cooperating activity. Other activities are also done to encourage cooperation yet not often.

4. Businesses and vocational schools share similar opinions about the benefits of cooperation in training. Cooperation has a positive impact on knowledge and skills of vocational students. Enterprises are willing to participate in cooperating programs with vocational schools.

5. Factors hindering industry-academy cooperation in vocational training include a weak mechanism to encourage/force the cooperation, the lack of information about partners and the fact that one party does not assure the interests of the partner.

6. On the basis of the research findings, dissertation proposes some solutions to enhance industry-academy cooperation and to improve the capability, knowledge and skills of vocational students.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
GDVT	General Department of Vocational Training
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation, Ltd
HaUI	Hanoi University Of Industry
HCM	Ho Chi Minh
IVT	Institute for Vocational Training
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MOARD	Ministry Of Agriculture and Rual Development
MOET	Ministry Of Education and Training
MOIT	Ministry Of Industry and Trade
MOLISA	Ministry Of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs
NVQs	National Vocational Qualifications
QCA	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
SLSU	Southern Luzon State University
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TNU	Thai Nguyen University
VCCI	Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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