



# NTU Update

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NHA TRANG UNIVERSITY - DECEMBER 2012

VOL.3



## NHA TRANG UNIVERSITY'S 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY

October 2<sup>nd</sup>: NTU's 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary (02/10/1959 - 02/10/2012) and the AY 2012-2013 Opening Ceremony were held with the participation of distinguished guests, alumni, staff, faculty members and students. At the ceremony, Rector Dr. Vu Van Xung reviewed the institution's historical milestones and outstanding achievements during 53 years of development.

After more than half a century of development from the Fisheries Faculty at Hanoi Institute of Agriculture and Forestry, NTU has now become a multi-disciplinary, multi-level institution, and, a leader in the field of aquaculture and fisheries in Vietnam. NTU has trained nearly forty thousand engineers, bachelors, masters, and doctoral students. NTU has also helped Cambodia and Laos train hundreds of highly qualified economics and technical staff.

Currently, NTU has approximately 700 employees, among them are 550 faculty members with 15 professors and associate professors, more than 100 with doctoral degrees, 300 with masters' degrees. Approximately 100 faculty members are currently pursuing their doctoral programs overseas. The university has a current enrollment of more than 30,000 with approximately 1,500 graduate students and Ph.D. students; and, 29 undergraduate, 7 masters', and 5 doctoral programs.

809 outstanding students with excellent academic results in the AY 2011 - 2012 and the freshman who performed excellently in the 2012 entrance examination were also recognized and awarded scholarships at the Opening Ceremony.

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# GETTING PRACTICAL

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## Information Technology Day

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Faculty of Information Technology cooperated with Khanh Hoa Information Technology Association to organize the "2<sup>nd</sup> Information Technology Day - NTU 2012" with the participation of a large number of students and domestic, international IT businesses.

The IT Day has helped students to access new technologies, to discover job markets and business ideas, to foster soft skills and to communicate with managers, domestic, and international entrepreneurs. On this occasion, the Organization Committee awarded 30 scholarships to talented and underprivileged students who have overcome difficulties and succeed in their academic studies.



NTU students participating in IT Day and receiving scholarship from sponsors

## Field Trips for Students

To enhance students' hands on experience, several faculties have organized field trips to businesses in Khanh Hoa and neighboring provinces.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, students of the 51<sup>st</sup> Cohort in English for Tourism, Faculty of Foreign Languages took a field trip to Sheraton Hotel to expand practical perspectives on hotel operations and management.

The Faculty of Food Technology also held a 2- day - field trip to Viet Duc Brewery and Beverage for 150 students (52<sup>nd</sup> Cohort). At the factory, the students learned about the supply chain production of draft beer and bottled beer, raw material sources, recovery and handling methods of CO<sub>2</sub>, frozen agents, types of products and the quality of products.

From October 12<sup>th</sup> to November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, The Institute for Biotechnology and Environment organized a field trip for students majoring in environmental technology to visit some wastewater treatment systems in Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, Lam Dong and at Dalat Nuclear Research Institute. Through the trip, students understood more about the structure and principles of operation of the machinery and equipment used in the chain treatment of solid waste, wastewater and running water treatment.



Field trips for students of Foreign Languages Faculty



Students of Food Tech. Faculty visiting Viet Duc Brewery and Beverage Factory



Students of Biotech and Environment Institute visiting Da Lat Nuclear Research Institute



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# EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

## Sign Cooperation Agreement with Vinh University, Nghe An Province

NTU and Vinh University signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The two universities will increase cooperation in all aspects such as training, scientific research, technological transfer, and infrastructure building. Priorities are given to training and developing an experimental aquaculture farm at Vinh University.



*MOUs signing with Vinh University*

## 10 Undergraduate Students from Laos and 4 Master Students from Rwanda to Study at NTU

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012: 10 students from Laos arrived at NTU for their undergraduate studies in economics and accounting at NTU. A ceremony was held to welcome the students and leaders of the Provincial Committee, Department of Education, and Department of Foreign Affairs of Champasack Province. These students will be granted full scholarships for four years by Khanh Hoa Province which has developed sistership with Champasack Province for several years. Various economical, political, cultural and educational exchanges between two provinces have taken place, thereby enhancing solidarity and deepening relationships between Vietnam and Laos.



*Welcoming undergraduate students from Laos*



*Rwandan graduate students with Dr. Pham Quoc Hung, Dean of Aquaculture Faculty*

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, four students from Rwanda arrived at NTU to start their master's programs in aquaculture. These students have received full scholarships from the Government of Rwanda. They will spend two years at NTU to complete their master's studies.

## Visits of Delegations from Auburn University - USA, James Cook University - Australia and Korean Universities

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012: Prof. Joseph Molnar from Auburn University visited NTU to discuss academic exchange possibilities and meet with young staffs who are interested in graduate studies at Auburn University. NTU signed an MOU with Auburn University in January 2012. The two universities have agreed to develop collaboration on academic program development and research in the area of economics of aquaculture and fisheries.



November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012: three representatives of James Cook University (JCU), Australia, visited NTU to deepen the existing relationship between both sides. In the meeting, NTU and JCU agreed on a number of collaborative initiations in which JCU will support training in NTU's faculties of economics and aquaculture. JCU delegates also introduced to NTU's students to study at JCU.



November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012, delegations from South Korea: Pukyong National University, Kyungung University and the Korean Institute of Science and Advanced Technology visited and discussed the possibility of cooperation with NTU in four main areas: exchanging students; sharing seaweed farming experience; cooperating to extract biofuel from seaweed; and cooperating to extract agar, carrageenan from red seaweed at NTU.



# RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

## Research on Poverty in Coastal Fishing Communities in Khanh Hoa Province

Dr. Pham Hong Manh has conducted a study to find solutions to reduce poverty in coastal fishing communities in Khanh Hoa. The research employed the "Poor Theory" of the World Bank to build econometric models to quantify the influence of factors to households poverty. It was found that the poverty rate and inequality issues are relatively high in coastal fishing communities in Khanh Hoa. The study provides useful hints for policy makers on employment, education and training, access to credit and land as well as population and family planning in fishing communities in the region.



## Composite Simulation of Wooden Boat - a Combination of Traditional and Modern Techniques

Following a request by Nha Trang Evason Hideaway Resort's, NTU's Institute for Ship Building (UNINSHIP) successfully designed and manufactured two models of pointed-tip composite boats, imitating traditional wooden boats.

The boats are aesthetically pleasing thanks to solid composite materials: the surface is made of false wooden veins and the deck and cabin are made of high-grade wood. They not only create comfort for travelers who like a traditional feeling and have a desire to explore but they also ensure absolute safety due to their superior quality in terms of durability and the water resistant characteristics of the hull's material.



## Research on Characteristics of Chitin and Chitosan Extracted from White Shrimp (*Penaeus Vannamei*) Shells Deproteinized by Chemical and Biological Methods

Ms. Pham Thi Dan Phuong and Dr. Trang Si Trung have completed their research on the characteristics of chitin and chitosan extracted from white shrimp shells by chemical and biological deproteinization. The study showed that chitin extracted by biological methods had higher residual protein and ash content than that of chitin extracted by chemical methods. Chitosan from chitin deproteinized by the chemical treatment had higher values of degree of deacetylation and solubility while chitosan from chitin extracted by biological method had higher viscosity. The research was published in NTU's Science and Technology Journal.



## Application Research on the Technology of Processing Products from *Kappaphycus Alvarezii* Doty



Cold dried carrageenan

The project "An application research on the technology of processing products from *Kappaphycus alvarezii* Doty", led by Dr. Do Van Ninh and scientists of the Food Technology Faculty has been completed successfully with outstanding results. The scientists are now able to determine the chemical composition of *Kappaphycus alvarezii*. This helps them propose the process of producing dry *Kappaphycus*

*alvarezii* and carrageenan food from dry *Kappaphycus alvarezii*, manufacture new products such as canned carrageenan beverages, aloe vera drinks mixed with carrageenan, carrageenan and logan gelatin candy, and carramine - P instead of borax in sausage production; refining and semi-refining carrageenan production used in medicine, and constructing technological processes of instant food production from carrageenan and *Kappaphycus alvarezii*.

Currently, the group is continuing further research with collecting, purifying carrageenan from *Kappaphycus alvarezii* and producing microgel (used in functional foods) from carrageenan.

### Products from carrageenan



Salad



Jelly



Carramin



Drink



Carrageenan medicine



Carrageenan jam

# EVENTS

## Vietnamese Teacher's Day

The Youth Union organized a show "Gratitude to Teachers" with many impressive performances from the students. Through the songs and dances, students expressed their deep gratitude to the teachers who are helping them become useful citizens in the society.

Faculties and departments organized meetings with the participation of emeriti to review the historical traditions and the contribution of different generations of NTU's teachers to the noble career of teaching.

NTU Staff Union organized a music show with more than 40 performances by the staff and faculty. Through these activities, we had moments of relaxation and fun after hard working days, and camaraderie was enhanced greatly.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vietnamese Teacher's Day (20.11.1982 - 20.11.2012), many activities were organized to honor educators who are daily devoting their best for the education of the country. Teacher's Day is also a day for students to show their respect and admiration for their teachers and it is considered a valued tradition of the Vietnamese people.

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Term Meeting of NTU's Staff Union (2013 – 2015)



*"Loyal, creative, dedicated and exemplary is the motto of the Staff Union Executive Committee Term XIX"*  
Chairman Vu Ngoc Boi

December 24<sup>th</sup>, NTU's Staff Union organized the 19<sup>th</sup> Term meeting (2013 – 2015) with the participation of 154 delegates representing more than 700 employees.



With the motto "Loyal, creative, dedicated and exemplary", the meeting took place in a democratic atmosphere. The report of the term 2010 – 2013 and strategic plan for the term 2013 - 2015 were discussed. The meeting also commented on the report of the Vietnam Education Staff Union.

To achieve the goals of development in the coming years, especially to help improve the quality of training, the meeting discussed and elected key members for the executive committee of the 19<sup>th</sup> Term, comprising of 15 persons. The Executive Committee has elected a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Standing Board (including 5 members), and an Inspection Board to carry out the action plan of the new term.

154 representatives for 700 staffs attending the meeting

## Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Visits NTU



Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) - Mrs. Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu visited NTU and discussed with NT's leaders issues regarding training human resources for fisheries industries such as fisheries technology and navigation, fisheries mechanical engineering, aquaculture and seafood processing. The discussion also covered research orientations as well as cooperation possibilities between MARD and NTU. MARD is going to send recommendations to the Government to promulgate appropriate policies to attract learners to fisheries majors such as ensuring jobs and income, and improving training quality and capacity of staff.

# EVENTS

## Soft Skills Courses for Students

Here at NTU, knowledge and skills always go hand in hand. Soft skills are among those emphasized elements in training programs. Thanks to support from the Norwegian government via the SRV12-0043 project, in December, NTU organized two training courses on soft skills for nearly 700 students

(the 1<sup>st</sup> course on 1-2/12/2012 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> course on 22-23/12/2012). Through these courses, students enhanced their teamwork skills, communication skills, collaboration and sharing skills.

In particular, they had opportunities to meet and share experiences with

successful entrepreneurs. Course content was tailored to provide useful sets of skills for learning, socializing and job-hunting for the future. The courses received positive responses from the students. NTU will organize similar courses regularly.



*Speakers for the soft skills courses:*

*Mr. Vuong Vinh Hiep, President, C.E.O., Long Sinh Ltd. Co. (1)*

*Mr. Nguyen Viet Hoa, General Director, Ngoc Hoa Martial Art Group (2)*

*Mr. Nguyen Huu Long, soft skills expert, Ho Chi Minh City Youth Union (3)*



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## Visit the Universities in Laos and Thailand

To strengthen collaboration with universities in neighboring countries and to give opportunities to young faculties and staff to expand their understanding and networking with international professionals, a delegation from NTU led by Rector Vu Van Xung visited universities in Laos and Thailand from December 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 2012. The activity was sponsored by the Norwegian government via the SRV12-0043 project.

In Laos, the delegation attended the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony of Champasack University and met with the university's leaders. NTU leaders decided to grant an annual graduate scholarship to Champasack

University and to support it in writing a project proposal to apply for funding from the Government of Vietnam to build a center for aquaculture research and production at Champasack University. The delegation also visited the Department of Foreign Affairs and agreed to support the Department to develop human resources for Champasack province.

In Thailand, the delegation visited Udon Thani Rajabhat University (UDRU). The two sides discussed and agreed on a specific exchange agenda for 2013. Among the activities are to organize a Vietnam-Thailand cultural exchange event at



*NTU delegation at Champasak University, Laos*

NTU in March; to send a teacher from NTU to teach Vietnamese at UDRU in June; and to exchange students majoring in tourism. In addition, NTU is planning to attend the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony of UDRU in November 2013.



*NTU delegation at Udon Thani Rajabhat University, Thailand (Visiting Vietnamese class and taking photos with leaders of Udon Thani Rajabhat University)*

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Psychophysiological Panel Discussion for Students

Questions from students about physiology, psychology, and adolescent relationship were answered at the psychophysiological panel discussion on the evening of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. Chairing the panel were Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoan, M.A. in Psychology, Vice-Dean of Education Management Faculty from Nha Trang College of Education, and Ms. Nguyen Thi Van, Vice-Chairman of Khanh Hoa Women Entrepreneurs Association. The seminar attracted over 500 students from various disciplines in the university.

Students were excited and satisfied with the discussed issues, and they wish to have similar activities in order to exchange the problems and situations they encounter daily.



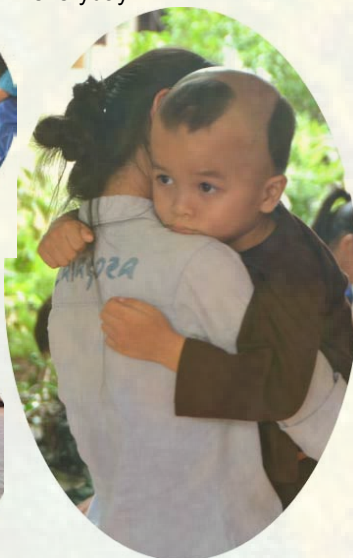
*Hundreds students participated in the discussion*

## “Happy Mid – Autumn Festival”



On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012, NTU volunteer students organized Mid – Autumn Festival for children of Khanh Hoa Social Affairs Center, Phuoc Dong Parenting Center.

Volunteer students gave children meaningful presents such as rice, books, notebooks, milk and moon-cakes and organized impressive dragon dances, lion dances. These activities brought the children joy and helped eliminate difficulties they are facing everyday.



## Over 1,000 NTU Students Participated in the Blood Donation Campaign



To raise awareness of the meaning and importance of blood donation to save lives, from December 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Youth

Union in collaboration with the Student Association organized a blood donation event with the participation of more than 1,000 students. After the event, 300 units of blood were received.

“Voluntary blood donation” activity is held regularly. This activity demonstrates the meaning of humanity and strong sense of community to help patients in hospitals. In addition, it helps students to show responsibilities to the community, and upholds the tradition of “solidarity” of the Vietnamese people.



*More than 1,000 students participated in blood donation event*

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Meeting with Female Staff on Vietnamese Women's Day

On Vietnamese Women's Day (20/10/1930 - 20/10/2012), a meeting with female staff of the University was held.

At the meeting, Vice-Rector Phan Thanh Liem acknowledged the tre-

mendous contribution of generations of female staff in the development of NTU over the past 50 years. NTU has had many female staff in key leadership positions, many having become nationally and internationally recognized scientists.



## Opening the Training Course "Application of Molecular Techniques in the Diagnosis of Some Dangerous Diseases in Aquatic Animals"

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, NTU collaborated with the Veterinary Bureau - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Bac Ninh Fishery College to open the training course "Application of molecular techniques in the diagnosis of some dangerous diseases in aquatic animals". The aim of the course

was to enhance the diagnosis of dangerous diseases in aquatic animals by using molecular biology techniques for staff members whose job it is to test for diseases in veterinary branches, aquaculture branches, research institutes and universities.



## Opening Ceremony of 2012 Postgraduate Programs

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the opening ceremony of the 2012 postgraduate programs was held with the participation of all new graduate students. There are 341 master students in 7 master's programs and 13 Ph.D. students at 5 doctoral programs.

At the ceremony, Rector Dr. Vu Van Xung highlighted the achievements gained during 25 years of training postgraduate programs. He also pointed out the university's training orientation, and required new students to concentrate on learning and doing research to get high results.



## Successfully Launching of Two Composite Patrol Ships

Ordered by Ca Mau Forest Management Branch, NTU's Institute for Ship Building produced and successfully launched a composite patrol ship. This kind of ship is designed for rangers to patrol coastal and marine areas.

Another ship, built for the Thong Thuan Company - one of the leading

companies of shrimp production for export was launched after 6 months in production. The ship, THONG THUAN-02, will be used for transporting raw shrimp from the Mekong Delta and Central Coastal areas to the processing plant of Thong Thuan company in Suoi Dau Industrial Zone, Khanh Hoa.



## Participation in the International Workshop on Aquaculture Quality Control in Thailand

From October 9<sup>th</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, an international workshop "An Appropriate System for High Quality and Safe Seafood Production in the Asia Pacific Region" was held in Bangkok with the aim to give scientists opportunities to discuss the actual state of safety

in aquaculture and production and the risks in aquaculture, production and processing. Dr. Nguyen Thuan Anh from NTU participated in the workshop and presented a paper on "Heavy metal contents in shellfish and risk assessment for the population in Nha Trang city,





# PRIZES, HONOURS & SCHOLARSHIPS

## NTU Male-Football Team Has Become the Champion in Sport Festival of Universities – Colleges – Junior Colleges of South Central and Highlands



From September 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the staff football competition took place at Nha Trang State Pedagogical College with the participation of seven teams. The competition (held over five days) was successful and the NTU team won the championship.



From November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the football competition for students was held at Tay Nguyen University with the participation of 9 teams from 9 universities and colleges. The NTU Team won the men's football championship.

## NTU's IT Team Won the Bronze Cup in the National Programming Competition ACM-ICPC

The programming competition ACM-ICPC took place on October 27<sup>th</sup> with the participation of 233 teams from 52 universities, colleges and institutes throughout Vietnam. NTU's Green Hornet Team achieved high results, ranking 11th among the 233 teams, and obtaining the third prize.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> at Hanoi University of Industry, the 21<sup>st</sup> IT Olympics for students of Viet Nam was held with the participation of over 800 students from information technology and communication majors from universities and colleges across the country. NTU sent teams to take part in the competition and achieved a third prize and an encouragement prize for competing amongst IT major students.



IT Teams from Information Officers School, Navy Academy, and NTU



NTU's IT Team

## Three Lecturers Were Honored “The Young Talents of Vietnam Science-Technology” of 2012

“The young talents of Vietnam Science-Technology” and “Golden Globe 2012” award ceremonies were held from October 7<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Hanoi by the State Youth Union and the Ministry of Science and Technology. Three young teachers from NTU were honored at these

events. They were Dr. Nguyen Van Duy (right) and Msc. Le Phu-ong Chung from the Institute for Biotechnology and Environment, and Dr. Le Minh Hoang (left) from the Faculty of Aquaculture.





## INSTITUTE FOR SHIP BUILDING - NHA TRANG UNIVERSITY- UNINSHIP

UNINSHIP was founded on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1986, after over 20 years of building and development, and now UNINSHIP has modern facilities as well as a team of skilled scientific and technical staff who are able to design and manufacture many kinds of ships and canoes of high quality. The institute can manufacture products made of composite materials; repair underwater parts of new and old wooden ships with composite; guide the theory and transfer technology of manufacturing products made of composite materials; test the endurance and analyze chemical compositions of materials, and, test construction materials.

Thanks to the recognized quality of products, UNINSHIP has a certified legal status for science and technology activities from the following Vietnamese authorities: Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Construction, Vietnam Register. The institute is allowed to perform tests that meet the requirements of the Ministry of Construction and is recognized as an eligible unit for shipbuilding and other composite products.

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*King Yatch Tourist Boat*



*Clean Sea Water Transportation Ship*



*Rescue Canoe*



*Catamaran Tourist Boat*



*High-Speed Canoe*



*Glass Bottom Boat*

### Upcoming Events

-  Staff Recruitment - February 2013
-  NTU Open Day - March 2013
-  Vietnam - Thailand Cultural Exchange Night - March 2013