

## Global Action Week for Education, 21-27 April 2008

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### Students and teachers challenge “WORLD'S BIGGEST LESSON! – Politicians Back to School: It's time to learn!”

**WHAT:** Millions of students, teachers, parents and politicians in 64 provinces throughout Viet Nam join together with 120 countries from around the world to observe Global Action Week for Education (GAW). The Global Education Campaign predicts that millions will take part in this global event challenging **the world record** (Guinness World Records TM) will be broken for the biggest number of people taking part in a simultaneous lesson about education. Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) has cooperated with UNESCO, UNICEF and other NGOs such as Action Aid, Aide et Action, ChildFund, Catholic Relief Services, Oxfam Great Britain, Plan in Vietnam, Save the Children Sweden, Vietnam – Belgium Education Project, VUFO-NGO Resource Centre and World Vision to organise big lessons in Vietnam.

**WHEN and WHERE:** While all Big Lessons will be organised in the 64 provinces throughout Vietnam on **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008**, the lesson at national level will take place in Thang Long lower secondary school, No 46, Nguyen Van Ngoc Street, Ba Dinh district, Hanoi at **2pm that same day**.

The events on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April will be preceded with preparation and lessons organised. (Please see the attached file for media trips).

#### **BACKGROUND:**

##### **1. WHAT and WHY the Global Action Week for Education (GAW)?**

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) was founded in 1999. The GCE promotes education as a basic human right and brings together Civil Society organizations, (I)NGOs, teacher unions and child rights activists to mobilize public pressure on governments and the international community to fulfil their promises to provide free, compulsory public basic education for all people, particularly children, women and all disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society.

Each year the GCE organises the Global Action Week (GAW) to generate a global call from all stakeholders to demand that governments deliver the right to education for all. The GCE demands that the international community and governments of the South take immediate action

to implement the [Education for All \(EFA\) goals and strategies](#) agreed by 185 world governments at Dakar in April 2000.

In 1990, delegates from 155 countries and representatives from some 150 organizations agreed at the World Conference on Education for All to universalize primary education and massively reduce illiteracy before the year 2000. The World Education Forum in 2000 adopted the Dakar Framework for Action reaffirmed their commitment to achieving Education for All goals by the year 2015.

Education for All goals remain the guiding benchmarks for how countries should enable all citizens to realise their potential, their rights and lift themselves out of poverty, and to enjoy the quality of life. EFA itself represents a broad commitment of wider education practitioners at every level to place education high up the global, regional and national agenda.

Viet Nam is committed to the goals of EFA within the Dakar Framework of Action. The National EFA Action Plan 2003-2015 developed by the Ministry of Education and Training with technical assistance of UNESCO was approved by the Prime Minister in July 2003 (Government Document No: 872/CP-KG, dated 2 July 2003). This constitutes a major step forward in Viet Nam's commitment to achieving the goals of EFA and to continuously renovating and modernizing the education sector in Viet Nam.

By combining EFA goals with the objectives and targets outlined in existing education policies and strategies into priority actions through modern educational planning, Viet Nam's National EFA Action Plan adds greater coherence and stronger direction to the EFA movement across the country.

## 2. What is the theme for GAW 2008?

The Campaign champions a different theme each year. The theme for 2008 is “**WORLD’S BIGGEST LESSON! – Politicians Back to School: It’s time to learn!**” Objectives of this year’s campaign are aimed to recognise the millions of people who have missed out on quality education for reasons because of their individual circumstances such as disability, poverty, their ethnicity, gender, geographical location, or have been made vulnerable by orphan hood or being exploited as child labourers.