

NEWSLETTER

NHA TRANG UNIVERSITY - THE 1ST QUARTER, 2024



COOPERATION *for development*



In this issue

(Click on the title to read the news)

EXTERNAL COOPERATION

- NTU receives commendation from the Provincial Governor of Champasak (Lao PDR)
- International students and lecturers explore traditional Vietnamese Tet festivities
- Receive and work with the Ambassadors of Australia and South Africa
- Sign of cooperation agreements both domestically and internationally
- Collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme to develop community learning programs
- Launch two new international projects: DIVE and EMSIV
- Work with the Consulate General of the United States on the project "Mangrove Forest Management and Restoration in Northern Khanh Hoa Province - Towards Sustainable Landscapes"
- Implement activities within the framework of the ECOViP project
- The DIGITAL-MOVE project: Attend a training course on digital transformation

TRAINING AND STUDENTS

- NTU granted permission to administer the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) certification exam
- Students from the Faculty of Aquaculture, NTU, participate in a student exchange program in Thailand
- Students participate in the entrepreneurship competition 'Building a Green Future'

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- The international workshop "Prevention and Recycling of Fishing Gear Waste in Vietnamese Coastal Areas - REVFIN"
- The International Workshop on Marine Catfish in the Indian-Pacific Ocean, the Mediterranean, and Red List Assessment
- Catamaran sailboat: The new product of the Institute of Shipbuilding and Maritime Research

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Award presentation of the competition for designing a commemorative emblem celebrating the 65th anniversary of NTU
- The South Central and Central Highlands Regional Qualifiers for the 2nd Vietnam Student Youth Football Championship 2024 - THACO Cup took place at NTU
- Social responsibility sharing

*Watch more news from
Nha Trang University*



NHA TRANG UNIVERSITY RECEIVES COMMENDATION FROM THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OF CHAMPASAK (LAO PDR)

On January 28, 2024, at the People's Committee Hall of Khanh Hoa Province, Mr. Sanan Siphaphomachanh, representing Champasak Province, presented a commendation from the Champasak Provincial Governor to representatives of Nha Trang University (NTU) and other collectives of Khanh Hoa Province. This serves as evidence of the close cooperative relationship between Khanh Hoa Province in general and Nha Trang University in particular, with the two provinces of Attapu and Champasack in Laos.

Every year, NTU admits and trains around 20 Laotian students in various fields such as Business Administration, Tourism, Electrical Engineering, Automotive Technology, and more. To date, the university has trained over 60 undergraduate students and 3 postgraduate students from various regions of Laos. In October 2023, a delegation from Nha Trang University visited and collaborated with agencies and universities in Attapu and Champasack provinces at the invitation of Laotian partners.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND LECTURERS EXPLORE TRADITIONAL VIETNAMESE TET

On January 22, 2024, NTU organized an exchange program with international students and foreign individuals studying, researching, and working at the university, on the eve of the 2024 Lunar New Year, the Year of the Dragon.

During the exchange program, international students and lecturers were introduced to key aspects of celebrating Tet, the Lunar New Year, in Vietnam, including unique features of Vietnamese cuisine, home decorations, and traditional Tet activities. They participated in riddles about Vietnamese Tet customs and, notably, they also joined in decorating the traditional five-fruit trays with

vibrant colors, symbolizing wishes for a prosperous new year. This annual event aims to enhance cultural connections and exchanges between the university and its international faculties and students.



WORK WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

During March and April 2024, NTU welcomed Mr. Andrew Golezdzinowski, the Australian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Vietnam, and Ms. Vuyiswa Tulelo, the South African Ambassador, along with their respective delegations.



NTU and its Australian partners have collaborated on various projects and programs over the years. These include building playgrounds for underprivileged children, short-term summer training programs for students from Southern Cross University, joint research initiatives with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and most recently, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing prevention training project sponsored by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (DAFF). During the visit, the Australian Ambassador agreed to continue researching, reviewing, and facilitating connections between the university and Australian entities, especially in the fisheries sector, one of the University's traditional strengths.

During the meeting with the South African Ambassador, discussions revolved around exploring the university's development directions and proposing international cooperation initiatives, particularly with South African partners. Ms. Vuyiswa Tulelo expressed her intention to facilitate collaboration between NTU and educational institutions in South Africa. This would involve implementing student and faculty exchange programs, sending staff from South African government departments to study and conduct in-depth research in the fisheries sector at NTU. Additionally, efforts would be made to promote cultural exchange programs for both NTU students and South African students in the near future.

SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

In order to foster cooperation across various fields, particularly in education, NTU has signed a MoU with Lyceum of the Philippines University, Batangas, to jointly implement student and faculty exchange programs, exchange academic information and materials, as well as collaborate and support each other in organizing symposiums, workshops, and scientific research initiatives in the future.

Also during this quarter, NTU has signed cooperation agreements with three businesses, including Liberty Central Nha Trang Hotel,

Viet Promotion Service and Tourism Limited Company, and Radisson Blue Resort Cam Ranh.

Businesses will collaborate in receiving students for internships and practical training, recruiting students, providing feedback on training programs and curriculum, participating in scientific conferences, workshops, and annual job fairs. They will also work together to organize practical experience programs, career orientation programs, future direction programs, and internship programs for students.



COLLABORATION WITH THE UNDP TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMS

With 175 projects in 45 provinces and cities nationwide, the UNDP expressed its desire to collaborate with universities in Vietnam, including NTU, to design exchange and community learning programs for faculty and students within the framework of these projects. These learning programs and projects will be built around key themes such as community-

At the meeting held on January 11, 2024, representatives from NTU and the United Nations Development Programme actively exchanged information and connected various projects and activities being implemented by the UNDP/GEF/SGP fund, especially in Khanh Hoa province.

based biodiversity conservation, sustainable urban solutions, promoting plastic/waste management and circular economy, and community-based climate change adaptation. These activities are aimed at disseminating knowledge into communities and raising awareness among the public towards sustainable development.

LAUNCH TWO NEW INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS: DIVE AND EMSIV

On March 12-13, 2024, Nha Trang University and member universities of the project in Vietnam, Portugal, and Italy launched the Empowerment of Ethnic Minority Students in Vietnam (EMSIV) project in the city of Bologna, Italy. Discussions were held regarding the project's objectives, activity plans, financial regulations, and the approval of the questionnaire content for surveying ethnic minority students.

Also in March 2024, the Kickoff meeting for the

DIVE project - Enhancing Digital Integration in Vietnamese Educational Institutions - was held in Ho Chi Minh City. The meeting focused on details regarding work packages, developing timelines, budget plans, 3-month and 6-month activity plans, communication mechanisms among partners, and the content of partnership contracts. The DIVE project encompasses all activities within 8 work packages. NTU participates in all 8 work packages and co-leads Work Package 7 - Project Quality Assurance.



The **EMSIV** project is implemented with funding support from the European Commission through the Erasmus+ program, with a total budget of approximately 400,000 EUR. Its aim is to equip ethnic minority students with knowledge and skills to integrate into the labor market, promote commitments from employers, policy-making agencies, and training institutions to provide more employment opportunities for this target group.

The **DIVE** project is funded by the European Commission (EC) through the Erasmus+ program, with a total budget of 794,524 EUR. The project is implemented over 3 years (2024-2027) with the participation of 14 universities/educational organizations in Vietnam, Belgium, and Spain. Its goal is to support Vietnamese HEIs in developing high-quality digital education, modernizing educational infrastructure, and promoting the engagement of higher education institutions on the path of digital transformation.

WORK WITH THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE PROJECT “MANGROVE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION IN NORTHERN KHANH HOA PROVINCE - TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES”

On January 9, 2024, the leadership of NTU, along with representatives from the project management board of “Mangrove Forest Management and Restoration in Northern Khanh Hoa Province - Towards Sustainable Environment”, welcomed and held discussions with representatives from the Consulate General of the United States.



Here, project representatives shared information and provided updates on the project's progress, offering updated databases on the biodiversity, biomass, and carbon stocks of mangrove ecosystems in Northern Khanh Hoa. The project is conducted under the leadership of Nha Trang University and involves partners from the Khanh Hoa Nature and Environment Protection Association and the Southern Institute of Ecology, with support from the U.S. Department of State.

The project encourages the younger generation to seek and implement solutions for the protection and restoration of mangrove forests while supporting livelihood models based on economically valuable indigenous plants. It involves the use of organic fertilizers made from household waste for vulnerable communities, particularly youth and women in fishing villages and islands. This model helps local communities adapt to climate change, protect the environment, and increase income.

IMPLEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ECOViP PROJECT

From January 22 to 26, 2024, a delegation of 3 officials and lecturers from NTU participated in activities of the ECOViP project at Portugalense University, Portugal. These activities included attending a training course on Sustainable Development and Ecotourism: Challenges and Prospects, designing eco-tourism experiences and policies, visiting real eco-tourism models in natural reserves, and touring traditional salt farming villages in Portugal. Additionally, they held project progress review meetings and prepared for upcoming activities.

As part of the project, NTU organized expanded seminars to disseminate information about ecotourism and related development issues in Vietnam to over 100 students and lecturers in February and March 2024. These seminars introduced various perspectives on ecotourism, development policies, and exemplary cases of ecotourism development in Vietnam and around the world. Attendees analyzed and discussed practical issues related to businesses, development strategies, and the feasibility of implementing ecotourism entrepreneurship projects in Vietnam.



THE DIGITAL- MOVE PROJECT: ATTEND A TRAINING COURSE ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



From January 22nd to January 26th, 2024, at the Technical University of Kosice, Slovakia, a training course on digital transformation for universities was organized within the framework of the project. The course covered topics related to approaches to digital transformation in aspects of organizational culture, human resources, and technology; digital transformation models and frameworks in universities, sharing experiences in building digital transformation action plans for each university, along with other practical study visits.

The DIGITAL-MOVE project is part of the European Community's support program aimed at enhancing the

capacity of higher education institutions in developing countries. The project is designed to achieve key objectives such as developing a digital transformation culture in higher education institutions in Mongolia and Vietnam, promoting digital transformation culture, and developing digital soft skills for lecturers, students, specialists, and management officials through courses and training programs. Thirteen universities participate in the project, including four institutions from Mongolia, two universities in Europe, and seven universities from Vietnam, including Quy Nhon University and the University of Economics in Ho Chi Minh City.

NTU GRANTED PERMISSION TO ADMINISTER THE TEST OF ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION (TOEIC) CERTIFICATION EXAM

NTU is the first university in the country to be granted permission by the Ministry of Education and Training to organize the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) certification exam. The university is currently preparing to conduct TOEIC exams in 2024. This year, NTU plans to organize 9 exam sessions, starting from

April to December (with one session per month). Special discounted exam fees are offered to students, providing opportunities for candidates in the South Central and Central Highlands regions, especially in Khanh Hoa province, to save time and transportation costs, making it more convenient for candidates to prepare and take the exam.

THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP “PREVENTION AND RECYCLING OF FISHING GEAR WASTE IN VIETNAMESE COASTAL AREAS” (REVFIN)

From January 15th to January 17th, 2024, a delegation from NTU participated in the international workshop “Prevention and Recycling of Fishing Gear Waste in Vietnamese Coastal Areas - REVFIN” held at Halong University.

The workshop was organized within the framework of the project REVFIN, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Natural Resources, Atomic Safety, and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany. The project is coordinated by Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences (Germany) in collaboration with NTU and 25 partners in Vietnam.

At the workshop, participants focused on analyzing the current situation of fishing gear waste in Vietnam's coastal areas, as well as identifying and evaluating methods for recycling seafood waste to reduce ocean pollution. Based on this analysis, necessary plans and solutions were proposed to implement the project in the near future.

THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MARINE CATFISH IN THE INDIAN-PACIFIC OCEAN, THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND RED LIST ASSESSMENT

From March 18th to March 22nd, 2024, the International Workshop on Marine Catfish in the Indian-Pacific Ocean, the Mediterranean, and Red List Assessment was held at NTU.

The workshop was co-organized by NTU and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Old Dominion University - USA (ODU). The workshop attracted the participation of nearly 100 experts, researchers, lecturers, and students from various countries around the world.

At the workshop, experts, researchers, lecturers, and students were briefed on the key terms and concepts

of the Red List; the criteria, principles, and process of Red List assessment; and presented with research findings and evaluations of the marine fish species, including the bream, along with directions for further research and species classification. Through field trips and practical demonstrations, participants also received hands-on guidance on Red List assessment principles and gained insights into local biodiversity.



CATAMARAN SAILBOAT: THE NEW PRODUCT OF THE INSTITUTE OF SHIPBUILDING

In the morning of February 13, 2024, the Institute of Shipbuilding and Maritime Research launched a catamaran sailboat made of composite materials, designated DH735 – S, for a customer in Phu Quoc, Kien Giang province, to serve marine tourism business activities.

The sailboat is 7.35 meters long, 4.0 meters wide, and 1.05 meters high, with a capacity of 8 passengers and 1 crew member. The cabin of the boat is entirely constructed from composite materials and is equipped with sleeping quarters, a common living area, a bathroom, 2 front and rear entrances, and an electric control panel for the entire ship.

STUDENTS FROM THE FACULTY OF AQUACULTURE, NHA TRANG UNIVERSITY, PARTICIPATE IN A STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN THAILAND

Under the collaboration between the Faculty of Aquaculture at NTU and the Department of Fisheries at Chiang Mai University in Thailand, three students from NTU participated in a short-term exchange program lasting for 8 weeks (from March 4th to May 5th, 2024). The program focused on “Technical Internship in Seed Production and Commercial Freshwater Fish Farming” following detailed course outlines. Both universities provided partial financial support for the program. To participate, students were required to have good/excellent academic performance, demonstrate

strong discipline, and possess English communication skills.

Chiang Mai University (Thailand) has been a long-term partner of the Faculty of Aquaculture, NTU. Over the years, the two institutions have implemented numerous exchange programs for both faculty members and students. Most recently, in mid-2023, the Faculty of Aquaculture, NTU welcomed 3 students from Chiang Mai University for internships. Furthermore, the two parties are currently discussing plans for collaborative scientific research in the near future.



STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPETITION “BUILDING A GREEN FUTURE”

The NTU Startup Idea Competition, launched at the end of August 2023, attracted 19 startup projects to participate. Seven outstanding projects competed in the final round.

During the final round, the participating teams presented their products and answered questions from the judges to demonstrate the significance, feasibility, and potential of their startup projects. The organizers awarded the following prizes: First Prize (10 million VND) to the “Trichoderma spp. Bacteriostatic” project by a group of students from Nha Trang University; Second Prize (5 million VND) to the “GCC - Organic fertilizer from fruit peels combined with clam shells as raw material”

project; two Third Prizes (3 million VND each) for the “Ater - Algae skincare mask” and “Black garlic extract for aquaculture” projects; and three Encouragement Prizes (2 million VND each) for the “Green bean grape milk”, “Medilea - Product to increase efficiency from banyan leaf extract”, and “An Chau - Natural herbal shampoo” projects. All projects that reached the final round received financial support from the organizers to create product prototypes, with 2 million VND per project



The competition serves as a platform for young people to develop and promote startup ideas aimed at economic and social development solutions in various fields: Industry and product manufacturing; Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; Education, tourism, services, and finance; Healthcare, wellness, and beauty technology; Social impact business.

AWARD PRESENTATION OF THE LOGO DESIGN CONTEST CELEBRATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF NTU

The competition was organized as part of the series of events commemorating the 65th anniversary of Nha Trang University's Traditional Day (August 1, 1959 - August 1, 2024). Over the course of nearly 3 months, the competition attracted significant attention with more than 40 entries submitted.



Based on four criteria: (1) Creativity and originality; (2) Aesthetic and scientific aspects; (3) Alignment with the university's identity; (4) Applicability, the Organizing Committee announced and awarded the following prizes: 01 First Prize with a prize of 5 million VND to the author Dao Duy Nhon - a student of the Faculty of Transportation Engineering (NTU); 01 Second Prize with a prize of 3 million VND awarded to the author Ho Sy Khai (from Cao Lanh City, Dong Thap Province); 01 Third Prize with a prize of 1 million VND awarded to the author Tran Kien Quoc (Ninh Kieu District, Can Tho City);

03 Encouragement Prizes with a prize of 500,000 VND each awarded to the authors including: Double C Group - Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, student Tran Hoang Phuc - Faculty of Transportation Engineering (NTU), and author Tran Van Nghia (Ba Dinh District, Hanoi). The winning entries were highly praised by the Judging Panel for their aesthetic qualities, investment in ideas, design messages, color coordination, and partially for reflecting the educational mission, research, and development of the university over its 65-year history.

**THE 2ND VIETNAM STUDENT YOUTH
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 - THACO CUP
TAKES PLACE AT NTU**

On March 1, 2024, the opening ceremony of the South Central and Central Highlands Regional Qualifiers for the 2nd Vietnam Student Youth Football Championship 2024 - THACO Cup took place at NTU.

The South Central and Central Highlands Regional Qualifiers for the 2nd Vietnam Student Youth Football Championship 2024 - THACO Cup took place from March 1st to March 7th, 2024, at the sports stadium of NTU. Six teams participating in the tournament were divided into two groups and played in a round-robin format within each group to earn points and

rankings. This tournament is organized annually by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee, in coordination with the Vietnam National Union of Students and the Vietnam Football Federation. It has been officially included in the national annual sports competition system by the Vietnam Football Federation and the Vietnam Student Sports Games.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SHARING

In January 2024, NTU organized several activities aimed at supporting and sharing social responsibility with students and the community.

Six "Zero-Dong Bus Trips" transported 188 students with difficult circumstances to various locations. This is an annual activity organized by the University for many years with sponsorship from businesses. Prior to this, the University had visited and gifted Tet presents directly to students. The activities aim to share and help these students gain more motivation to strive for better learning and development.

So in January, the collective of staff and workers at the university organized various activities to share with the community, such as visiting and donating rice and cooking oil to ethnic minority people in Giang Ly commune, Khanh Vinh district; visiting and giving gifts to students, children with difficult circumstances, and ethnic minority people at schools and shelters in Khanh Hoa and Ninh Thuan provinces.

Commemorating **THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF NHA TRANG UNIVERSITY**

August 1, 1959 - August 1, 2024

April, 2024

- Calling for articles, photos, and videos for the website commemorating the 65th Anniversary of NTU at:
<https://65.ntu.edu.vn/>

May, 2024

- Contest to explore the history and traditions of NTU over 65 years among students

July, 2024

- Publication of the Special Issue of the Science and Technology Journal (issue 2-2024, special issue, commemorating the 65th anniversary)
- Publication of a special issue in the Fisheries and Aquatic Science Journal
- Scientific seminar on the achievements of research and application of science and technology in aquaculture for training, economic and social development of NTU, from 2010 to 2024.
- Scientific seminar: "Utilization of by-products in agriculture and aquaculture"
- Announcement of the results of ranking and awarding of UPM stars for educational institutions (NTU)

August, 2024

- Roundtable discussion on the traditional day of the university