

Session 1

# International Large-Scale Assessments: Vietnam's Experience

READ Regional Workshop

Astana, Kazakhstan  
September 19, 2012

# International Large-Scale Assessments: Vietnam's Experience

Guiding questions for presentation on Vietnam's experience with international large-scale assessments (ILSA):

1. **Why did Vietnam decide to participate in an ILSA?** Who made the decision? What steps did Vietnam take to participate?
2. **What resources were required (budget, institutional capacity, personnel, equipment) to participate?**
3. **What have been the main benefits and challenges?** What has been done to maximize benefits and avoid overlaps between national and international large-scale assessments in the country?
4. **How is Vietnam planning to use the results?**
5. **What has Vietnam been doing to ensure sustainability of their participation in ILSA beyond READ?**
6. **Where would Vietnam like to be in 5 years with regard to participation in ILSA?**

## Why did Vietnam decide to participate in an ILSA (PISA)?

Five main reasons:

1. Participating PISA is a crucial step to integrate into global education;
2. It is possible to benchmark Vietnam education with global education;
3. Results of the national education analysis and evaluation are provided.
4. Recommendations for educational policy are given;
5. Vietnam can innovate assessment methods and apply the new approach of teaching and learning, assessment and testing.
6. Participating PISA is a preparation for the education innovation after 2015.

## Who made the decision?

- Minister of Ministry of Education and Training

## What steps did Vietnam take to participate?

- Register with OECD regarding the participation of Vietnam in PISA 2012
- Implement propaganda and introduction about PISA to secondary schools.

# What resources were required (budget, institutional capacity, personnel, equipment) to participate?

- **Budget**

- Ministry of Education and Training.
- Loan from Asian Development Bank.

The Minister signed a decision to approve PISA VN' s content and budget in 2010-2013

# What resources were required (budget, institutional capacity, personnel, equipment) to participate?

- **Institutional capacity**

Management Board of PISA VN and the National office of PISA VN was established.

- **Personnel**

- Experts in educational assessment;
- Experts in Secondary Education;
- Excellent teachers in various disciplines;
- Staff is responsible for PISA...

# What resources were required (budget, institutional capacity, personnel, equipment) to participate?

- **Essential Equipments have been supported:**
  - Computers
  - Scanners.
  - Printers....
  - Office for PISA VN;

# Sample and Test of PISA VN 2012

- Sample: **5.096 students** from 159 educational institutions.
- Number of test sets: **4.968 students** took the test; 138 did not present in the test. Number of test sets: **4.968**



# Difference between PISA test and Vietnam test

- PISA test combined 3 areas: Mathematics, Science and Reading in a same test set. Vietnam test only includes one area in one test and need 3 separate tests;
- There are more test items in PISA test than in Vietnam test;
- PISA test's difficulty is much more than Vietnam test's.
- In general, PISA test items are difficult but interesting to Vietnamese students;

# Difference between PISA test and Vietnam test

- No Science topic in Vietnam National curriculum → Science is difficult to Vietnamese students.
- The application of theory into practice or solving problems are not focused.
- There are challenges for the students to get right answers in PISA test;
- Time to do the PISA test is longer than any tests of Vietnam (the students may feel stressful to do the test)

# PISA 2012 test results

- PISA 2012 official test in Vietnam was taken place in 03 days, from 12 to 14/4/2012;
- All data was submitted to OECD and being cleaned now.
- Final result will be released by OECD in 2013.

# What have been the main benefits and challenges?

- **Main benefits:**

- Assessment the competency levels that 15 years old students achieved;
- Identify the factors effecting student achievement; Apply necessary adjustment;
- Learn the process and technique of large-scale assessment;
- Access to international assessment aiming innovating testing and assessment in Vietnam.
- Encourage teachers and students to the test innovation.

# What have been the main benefits and challenges?

- **What has been done to maximize benefits?**
  - Continue participating in PISA 2015.
  - Learn and receive OECD's technique of test development, large-scale assessment administration.
- **Main challenges:**
  - PISA is a new assessment approach in which the technique, processes and item types are unfamiliar to Vietnam Education, including teachers and students.
  - Expense to conduct PISA is quite costly.

# What have been the main benefits and challenges?

- **What has been done to avoid overlaps between national and international large-scale assessments in the country?**
  - The purposes of national and international large-scale assessments are not overlapped but complemented each other;
  - The time of these assessments are different;
  - Making good use of one' s result to the other;

# How is Vietnam planning to use the results?

- Review the students' level of competency in Mathematics, Science and Reading at 10 and/or 9 grades, or at vocational schools;
- Review and analyze the factors effecting the students' achievement.
- Study and propose assessment content and methods to innovate testing and assessment.
- Develop national and international assessment process for Vietnam

# What has Vietnam been doing to ensure sustainability of their participation in ILSA beyond READ?

- Institutionalizing international assessment in Vietnam, engaging in the strategy for Vietnam Educational Development in 2011-2020
- Building expert team.
- Ensuring regular funding allocated at discretion.



# Where would Vietnam like to be in 5 years with regard to participation in ILSA?

ESTABLISHED (acceptable minimum standard), that means:

- Participation in PISA every 3 year
- There is a formal policy document that addresses participation in ILSA.
- There is regular funding allocated at discretion.
- There is a team and national/system co-ordinator to carry out the ILSA activities.