PACE International
A PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE
Know One Teach One (KOTO) – Vietnam

PHOTO: SHERMARA FERNANDO

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
SYDNEY ~ AUSTRALIA
KNOW ONE TEACH ONE (KOTO)

KOTO (Know One, Teach One) is a not for profit restaurant and vocational training program that began on the streets of Hanoi in 1996 when an Australian Vietnamese man, Mr. Jimmy Pham, asked a group of street kids what they wanted out of life. They simply replied, “We need skills so we can find stable jobs” and so the KOTO Restaurant and Training Program were born. In just over ten years, KOTO has grown from a small sandwich shop run by nine former street children to become a popular restaurant staffed by ‘trainees’.

The KOTO trainees undertake a unique 24 month program incorporating an internationally accredited hospitality training course and parallel English language course, as well as an essential life skills and welfare program. They gain practical skills working at the KOTO restaurant while building the social and professional skills necessary for their life beyond KOTO. Graduates of the program are fast becoming the preferred staff at top hotels and restaurants in Hanoi and throughout Vietnam.

Trainees are recruited to the program every six months, taking around 25 young people off the streets or from extremely difficult life circumstances with each intake. These trainees are given thorough health checks and vaccinations, and provided with uniforms, laundry, lunch every day, accommodation in share houses, ongoing medical care and a monthly training allowance. Through the KOTO program they are empowered with the ability to support themselves and their families, and through this, break the cycle of poverty.

“The greatest accomplishment for the person who has helped you, is to see you stand on your own two feet and then in turn help someone else that reminds you of yourself, because if you Know One, then you should Teach One.”

Mr Jimmy Pham
KOTO Founder and Director
As the programs offered by KOTO to its trainees are varied, so too are the activities of Macquarie participants. Participants could be working in the life skills or social welfare departments, on resource development and organisational capacity building projects or special projects with the trainees.

**BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM**

- Be part of a reciprocal learning experience that will broaden your perspective
- Enhance your employability as you build on your problem-solving, communication and leadership skills
- Learn the language and immerse yourself in the culture
- Work alongside locals and learn from those who strengthen community based initiatives
- Appreciate community development
- Be part of a diverse team and meet friends from different nationalities and degrees
- Go through a full learning cycle from pre-departure sessions to re-entry activities
- Receive a Macquarie University Certificate upon completion of the program

“*The KOTO staff and trainees function as a family and as a volunteer I felt part of that family. In the time I spent at KOTO I was able to see how the organisation worked, with the ups and downs. KOTO has the goal of providing future opportunities to those who are at a disadvantage and these trainees are some of the happiest and most enthusiastic people I have ever met but will always remember.*”

Hayley Alida Eisermann, Vietnam Program Participant July 2010
Accommodation
Accommodation in Hanoi will be in twin share rooms in a hotel located 15 minutes walk from the KOTO training centre and twin share rooms in other locations set out in the schedule. All accommodation will have western-style toilets and showers. Female/male participants will be placed in different rooms.

Food
Vietnamese cuisine uses very little oil and many vegetables and the main dishes are often based on rice, soy sauce, and fish sauce. The most common meats used in Vietnamese cuisine are pork, chicken, fish, and various kinds of seafood. The Vietnamese also have a strong vegetarian tradition so vegetarians can easily be catered for.

Language
Vietnamese is the official and predominant language of Vietnam, with Chinese and French influences, and English is becoming more widespread. Vietnamese language training will be provided as part of the program. Participants are also strongly encouraged to practice basic language skills prior to departure.

Climate
Hanoi experiences the typical climate of northern Vietnam, where summers are hot and humid, and winters are relatively cool and dry. The summer months from May to September receive the majority of rainfall in the year while the winter months from November to March are relatively dry. The minimum winter temperature in Hanoi can dip as low as 6–7 °C not including the wind chill, while summer can get as hot as 38–40 °C.

APPLICATIONS & FURTHER INFORMATION
Applications are open to all Macquarie University students who meet the selection criteria and who apply by the closing date. The application process, dates and forms will be available at the following link: www.international.mq.edu.au/paceinternational

Participants will be selected based on their responses in the Application Form and an interview.

Further information & enquiries:
Email: paceinternational@mq.edu.au
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PACE International is jointly managed by Macquarie University and Australian Volunteers International. PACE International offers students a unique opportunity to actively contribute to more just, inclusive and sustainable societies through activities with communities and organisations overseas.