



Submission No 20

Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Dialogues with China and Vietnam

Organisation: DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
TRADE;

AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT;and

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT



SUBMISSION

from the

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

**AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

and

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

to

The Human Rights Sub-Committee

of

**The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence
and Trade**

on its

**Inquiry into Australia's human rights dialogues with
China and Vietnam**

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Dialogues with China and Vietnam

The Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will inquire and report on the effectiveness of Australia's Human Rights Dialogues with China and Vietnam with particular reference to:

- parliamentary participation and oversight;
- involvement of non-government organisations;
- the roles and obligations of participating agencies;
- reporting requirements and mechanisms;
- the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes including an assessment of whether any human rights reforms within those countries have been obtained;
- whether this dialogue mechanism should be adopted with other countries;
- exploring options for alternative human rights mechanisms.

BACKGROUND

Promoting improvements in the human rights situations in China and Vietnam is a high priority for the Australian Government.

Australia's bilateral human rights dialogues (HRDs) with China and Vietnam consist of four elements:

- . formal talks between official delegations;
- . representations on individual cases of concern;
- . a separate program for the visiting delegation which allows direct interaction with non-government human rights practitioners; and
- . a Human Rights Technical Cooperation (HRTC) program through which Australia works with partners to support specific human rights-related projects.

The Australia-China Human Rights Dialogue, the Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue and the associated HRTC programs are important tools for Australia to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in China and Vietnam. The HRDs, including the HRTC programs, are part of a broader range of Government activities related to the human rights situation in China and Vietnam, which includes representations to the Chinese and Vietnamese Governments at the political level, representations through diplomatic channels, and engagement in multilateral human rights fora.

CHINA

There have been 13 rounds of the formal dialogue since its inception in 1997, during which it has evolved from an officials-only meeting to become a wide-ranging dialogue between delegations comprising parliamentarians, officials and non-government practitioners. The location for the dialogue alternates between Canberra and Beijing. Our dialogue with China is conducted at the level of Deputy-Secretary/Vice-Minister. Only Australia and Norway have had human rights dialogues at this level. China also has human rights dialogues with the US, the EU, Germany, Switzerland, UK, Hungary and Japan. It has human rights consultations with Sweden and the Netherlands and regular discussions on human rights with New Zealand.

The primary components of the HRD are the formal dialogue and a list of individual human rights cases which is handed over in connection with the dialogue. This list is compiled by DFAT Canberra in consultation with post in Beijing, and also draws on submissions provided by NGOs. We do not make the list public because to do so may be detrimental to our efforts on behalf of the people who are listed. When logistics permit, the HRD includes site visits and high-level meetings between the visiting head of delegation and the host government, including the Foreign Minister. Since 2003, the HRD has included a joint press conference, and, since 2004, a parallel meeting between the visiting delegation and host-country NGOs.

Participation in the HRD has broadened since 1997 and includes representatives from a range of government departments and non-governmental invitees including the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, or their nominee, and the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC). The actual composition of the Australian delegation to the HRD varies due to a range of factors, including the timing, the length of notice given and the location of the dialogue. Australia's delegation to the 13th HRD in Beijing, for which there was very short notice, comprised the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the AHRC, the Attorney-General's Department (AGD), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). The Australian delegation to the most recent Canberra-based dialogue, the 12th round, added the Department for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) member Senator Helen Kroger and then JSCFADT member Ms Kerry Rea MP to the above list. Host-country NGOs participate in the HRD through meetings that are part of the HRD process, but are separate to the formal dialogue.

Chinese participation at the HRD has similarly broadened over time. Whereas only the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) participated in the first dialogue in 1997, China's delegation to the 13th dialogue in 2010 included representatives from MFA, the Supreme People's Court, the Ministry of Public Security, the State Ethnic Affairs Commission, the State Administration of Religious Affairs, the State Council Information Office, the All-China Women's Association and the China Disabled Persons' Federation.

We have held 13 rounds of the HRD with China to date:

- . 1st HRD: China, August 1997
- . 2nd HRD: Australia, August 1998
- . 3rd HRD: China, August 1999
- . 4th HRD: Australia, August 2000
- . 5th HRD: China, October -November 2001
- . 6th HRD: Australia, August 2002
- . 7th HRD: China, July-August 2003
- . 8th HRD: Australia, October 2004
- . 9th HRD: China, June 2005
- . 10th HRD: Australia, July 2006
- . 11th HRD: China, July 2007
- . 12th HRD: Australia, February 2009
- . 13th HRD: China, December 2010

Australia uses the HRD process to raise the full range of human rights issues with China. For example, at the 13th HRD, Australia raised issues including:

- . freedoms of speech, assembly, the press, association, procession and demonstration;
- . the use of the death penalty;
- . the petition system and forced labour;
- . legal reform and the rights of lawyers;
- . the rights of women,
- . the rights of persons with disabilities
- . the rights of children
- . the rights of ethnic minorities, including in Tibet and Xinjiang;
- . freedom of religion; and
- . civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights

Also at the 13th HRD, China raised the following issues:

- . changes to shared-parenting laws (2006 amendment to the Commonwealth Family Law Act 1975)
- . male-female wage gap
- . attacks on international students
- . visas for international students
- . rights of Indigenous Australians.

VIETNAM

There have been eight rounds of the HRD since the first HRD was held in Hanoi in 2002. The location for the Dialogue alternates between Australia and Vietnam. The Dialogue with Vietnam is conducted at the level of First Assistant Secretary/ Director-General. Vietnam also has Human Rights Dialogues with the US, the EU, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

The primary components of the HRD are the formal dialogue, which generally takes a full day, and a program of additional meetings and site visits. The agenda for the HRD is developed in consultation between Australia and Vietnam – the usual practice is for the country hosting the Dialogue to propose an agenda (the visiting delegation has an opportunity to suggest amendments to the proposed agenda).

During the HRD we ask Vietnam formally for a response to our lists of cases of concern. We maintain two lists of cases of concern for Vietnam: one list is for individuals who are imprisoned, the other is for individuals who are not imprisoned but who have had restrictions placed on them (for example individuals who are under house arrest). We pass the lists to Vietnam in advance of the HRD and also ahead of known amnesty periods. We do not make the lists public because to do so may be detrimental to our efforts on behalf of the people who are listed.

The program of additional meetings and site visits is developed in consultation between Australian and Vietnamese officials. For the 2011 HRD, held in Canberra, additional meetings were held with representatives of peak NGOs (the Australian Council for International Development and Australian Forum of Human Rights Organisations) and with the Human Rights Policy Branch of the AGD. The delegation also visited Goulburn Correctional Centre, during which it had an opportunity to tour the facility and discuss a range of issues with prison management. In the 2009 HRD Vietnam facilitated a visit by the Australian delegation to a Vietnamese correctional facility.

The Australian delegation for the HRD is led at DFAT First Assistant Secretary level. Participation in the HRD has broadened since 2002 to include a range of government agencies on both the Australian and Vietnamese sides, as well as Members of Parliament (on the Australian side only, to date, although a member of Vietnam's National Assembly participated in the site visits program for the 6th round of the HRD in 2008). For the 2011 HRD, the Australian delegation included two Members of Parliament (Laurie Ferguson MP and Julie Bishop MP), the President of the AHRC, and officials from the AGD, AusAID, and FaHCSIA.

Over time, Vietnam's representation at the HRD has become more senior and has been drawn from a wider range of government agencies. At the 2011 HRD, for example, the Vietnamese delegation included Director-General (First Assistant Secretary equivalent) level participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security, the Government Office and the Ministry of Information and Communication. By comparison, the Vietnamese delegation for the 2005 HRD (which was also held in Canberra) included only one Director-General level representative and working level participation from other agencies. The increased seniority of Vietnam's delegation for the HRD could be seen as a measure of increasing trust and confidence in the HRD process by the Vietnamese Government.

We have held eight rounds of the HRD with Vietnam to date:

- . 1st HRD: Hanoi, May 2002
- . 2nd HRD: Canberra, June 2003
- . 3rd HRD: Hanoi, June 2004
- . 4th HRD: Canberra, December 2005
- . 5th HRD: Hanoi, April 2007
- . 6th HRD: Canberra, August 2008
- . 7th HRD: Hanoi, December 2009
- . 8th HRD: Canberra, February 2011

Australia uses the HRD process to raise the full range of human rights issues with Vietnam. For example, at the 8th HRD in 2011, we raised issues including:

- . respective national approaches to human rights

- . individual cases of concern
- . freedoms of speech, assembly, the press, association and demonstration
- . the use of the death penalty
- . legal and judicial reform
- . prison conditions
- . freedom of religion
- . civil, political, economic and cultural rights
- . ethnic minority rights
- . women's rights
- . the rights of persons with disabilities
- . international human rights mechanisms (e.g. the UN Human Rights Council, human rights treaties)
- . Vietnam's implementation of recommendations from its Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review appearance.

In addition to a general exchange on human rights, Vietnam questioned why Australia had not enshrined a bill of rights and raised concerns about an assault on a Vietnamese student.

PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT

DFAT provides oral briefings on the dialogues to Parliamentary Committees and individual Parliamentarians as requested. For previous dialogues, the Foreign Minister formally invited the Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of JSCFADT, or his or her nominee, and the Shadow Foreign Minister, or his or her nominee, to participate in dialogues as members of Australia's delegations. It was agreed in May 2011 that for future dialogues, the Foreign Minister will formally invite the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee, or their nominees, to participate in dialogues as members of Australia's delegations.

CHINA

Since Australia's bilateral human rights dialogues were last reviewed by the JSCFADT in 2005, the following parliamentary representatives have been included in Australia's delegation to the Dialogue with China:

- . 11th HRD, 2007: Senator Marise Payne
- . 12th HRD, 2009: Ms Kerry Rea MP and Senator Helen Kroger.

At the 13th HRD, the Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the JSCFADT and the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs were unable to accept invitations to attend because of the late confirmation of dates.

VIETNAM

Since Australia's bilateral human rights dialogues were last reviewed by the JSCFADT in 2005, the following parliamentary representatives have been included in Australia's delegation to the Dialogue with Vietnam:

- . 4th HRD, 2005: Senator Marise Payne
- . 6th HRD, 2008: Senator Marise Payne and Ms Kerry Rea MP
- . 8th HRD, 2011: Mr Laurie Ferguson MP and Ms Julie Bishop MP.

At the 2007 and 2009 dialogues, the Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the JSCFADT and the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, or their nominees, were invited to participate but did not attend. In February 2011, the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the JSCFADT was offered the opportunity to meet with the visiting Vietnamese delegation but as it was not a sitting week, this meeting did not proceed.

INVOLVEMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Since the HRDs were reviewed in 2005 by the JSCFADT, and in order to ensure Australian delegations to the dialogues are aware of the views and interests of NGOs, before each round of dialogue, DFAT writes to interested NGOs seeking their input and suggestions for issues to be raised at the dialogue. Submissions are collated and provided to members of the Australian delegation, and inform the briefing prepared for the delegation. NGO input has been helpful in preparing the lists of individual human rights cases handed over in connection with each round of dialogue.

Ministerial correspondence on human rights situations in dialogue countries also informs the agenda, list of cases of concern and briefing. We also draw on publications of relevant human rights NGOs, for example Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

On some occasions, NGOs have been debriefed after dialogues, in response to particular requests. We have also provided information on the dialogues in response to ministerial correspondence from NGOs, community groups and individuals.

CHINA

For the most recent dialogue round (December 2010), the Department received nine NGO submissions on China. NGO representatives are not part of the official Australian delegation to the Australia-China HRD. To facilitate contact between NGOs and the Chinese delegation, when Australia is hosting the dialogue, Australian NGO representatives are invited to attend HRD events that run parallel to the formal dialogue. We have also briefed NGOs following dialogues. For example, after the 11th Australia-China HRD, held in Beijing in July 2007, we wrote to those NGOs that had provided submissions to debrief them on the dialogue.

At the Australian-hosted dialogue in 2009, eight Australian NGOs attended a welcome reception and six attended a parallel NGO meeting with the Chinese delegation. Chinese authorities did not agree to Australia's request to include meetings with Australian NGOs as part of the 13th HRD in Beijing in 2010. Chinese authorities, however, arranged meetings between the Australian delegation and Chinese civil society organisations for the first time.

VIETNAM

Two submissions were received (from Human Rights Watch and Viet Tan) before the last round of the Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue (February 2011).

During the 2011 Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, the visiting Vietnamese delegation met with representatives of NGO peak organisations – the Australian Council for International Development and the Australian Forum for Human Rights Organisations.

Briefing sessions for NGOs on the outcomes of the Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue have been held on an ad hoc basis since the JSCFADT review of Australia's

bilateral human rights dialogues in 2005. Following the 2008 Dialogue, for example, FAS ILD chaired an information session for NGOs. The session was attended by representatives of Amnesty International, the Australian Baha'i Community, the Australian Council for International Development, the Australian Red Cross, the Unified Buddhist Congregation of Australia and New Zealand and the Vietnamese Community in Australia.

THE ROLES AND OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Since the HRDs were last reviewed by the JSCFADT in 2005, Australia's delegations to bilateral dialogues have always included officials from DFAT, AusAID, the Attorney-General's Department, and the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC). DIAC, DEEWR and FaHCSIA have also participated as members of the Australian delegation when the agenda has included issues relevant to their portfolios.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DFAT is the lead agency responsible for the bilateral human rights dialogue process. Senior DFAT officials lead the Australian delegations.

In addition to providing ongoing reporting and assessment on the human rights situations in dialogue partner countries, DFAT is responsible for managing the organisational aspects of the dialogue meetings. These include:

- . arranging timing and agendas with dialogue partners;
- . settling on site visits and field trips when dialogues are held in partner countries and arranging field trips for visiting delegations when Australia hosts;
- . organising and coordinating the Australian delegations;
- . preparing briefings for delegations;
- . liaising and consulting with AusAID, AGD, AHRC, and other agencies as required; and
- . handling other administrative arrangements during dialogue meetings as necessary.

DFAT is also responsible for:

- . liaising with Parliament and providing briefings on request;
- . liaising and consulting with NGOs, and providing debriefs on the dialogues as requested and through the annual Government-NGO human rights forum;
- . compiling lists of individual cases of concern, making representations and following up on these representations; and
- . reporting to the Foreign Minister on outcomes of dialogues.

Attorney-General's Department

The role of the Attorney-General's Department in the human rights dialogue process is to provide advice to dialogue participants on Australia's system of law and justice, particularly regarding domestic human rights institutions, policies and legislation.

This advice is provided by the Attorney-General's Department through its participation in Australian delegations and in written briefings. The Attorney-General's Department has provided senior delegates, including at First Assistant Secretary and Assistant Secretary levels, who have presented to and answered questions from partner country delegations.

The following topics fall within the portfolio responsibility of the Attorney-General's Department, and have been discussed at human rights dialogues:

:

- . Australia's Human Rights Framework
- . domestic implementation of international human rights treaties
- . civil and political freedoms
- . freedom of religion
- . national human rights institutions
- . judicial administration and reform
- . criminal justice
- . counter-terrorism and security legislation
- . native title
- . Indigenous incarceration and deaths in custody.

AusAID

As part of the HRDs, AusAID manages the Human Rights Technical Cooperation program in both countries. The programs are valued at approximately A\$3.7 million per annum (with around A\$2.5 million allocated to China and A\$1.2 million to Vietnam). Each activity is implemented by the AHRC in partnership with Chinese and Vietnamese partner agencies. The program provides a mechanism for funding practical activities to promote human rights in line with the objectives of the HRDs. The HRTC programs support small-scale activities that are intended to have a tangible impact on a targeted group of people. The programs also generate links between Australian and Chinese or Vietnamese human rights institutions.

In China, the program has focused on activities which promote legal reform, women's and children's rights and ethnic and minority rights. In Vietnam the program has focused on strengthening human rights institutions.

The China and Vietnam programs were independently reviewed in late 2010 and early 2011 by an international human rights expert (Paul Dalton) and monitoring and evaluation specialists (Rick Davies and Martine Van de Velde). The review process included consultation with AusAID Canberra and Hanoi and Beijing posts, as well as time in country with Chinese and Vietnamese cooperating partners. In the case of China, the review found that the majority of activities implemented in the past four years have been well-coordinated, with careful forward planning, participation from well-qualified experts, and good communication between the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) and China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The review found that the Vietnam-Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program was

making progress on its key objectives, and has had a positive effect on relations between Vietnam and Australia. Critical to achieving this progress has been the Government of Vietnam's confidence in the two Australian partner agencies, AusAID and the AHRC. Recommendations from the review, which addressed issues such as program design, monitoring and evaluation, and financial management, are being considered for incorporation into the next phase of the China and Vietnam Human Rights Technical Cooperation Programs.

Appendix A contains further information on the activities funded under the HRTC programs from 2006-11.

AHRC

The AHRC is Australia's national human rights institution and is an independent statutory authority under the Attorney-General's portfolio. The AHRC's participants contribute practical information about the handling of human rights issues in Australia and demonstrate the capacity of national human rights institutions to work with governments while maintaining their independence. In addition to being part of the delegation to the dialogues, the AHRC implements the HRTC programs with China and Vietnam, under agreements with AusAID. During formal dialogue meetings, the AHRC comments on the human rights situation in Australia and also reports on progress in the HRTC programs with China and Vietnam (as requested).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MECHANISMS

DFAT reports to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the outcomes of each dialogue. DFAT provides briefings to Parliamentary Committees, individual Parliamentarians and NGOs when requested. Regular Government-NGO human rights consultations also provide an opportunity to debrief a range of human rights NGOs on the dialogues and answer any questions that arise. DFAT also reports on the dialogues in the DFAT Annual Report, and AusAID reports on the HRTC programs in the AusAID Annual Report.

The 2005 inquiry into Australia's human rights dialogue process by the JSCFADT recommended the tabling of an annual statement to Parliament on dialogue outcomes. The Government did not accept this recommendation.

CHINA

Since 2003, the Australia-China HRD has included a joint press conference at the end of the formal dialogue, with statements by both heads of delegation and time for questions from the media. The Department has made press conference transcripts available on request.

VIETNAM

We have issued media releases for each round of the Australia-Vietnam HRD.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF OUTCOMES

Australia's bilateral human rights dialogues are part of a broader policy approach to the protection and promotion of human rights which encompasses engagement at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

At the bilateral level, the human rights dialogues complement our engagement with dialogue partners on human rights issues, including the representations DFAT makes throughout the year on individual cases and thematic issues.

Each activity that takes place under one of the HRTC programs is monitored and reported on by both the AHRC and the relevant Chinese or Vietnamese partner agency. Additionally, the AHRC undertakes monitoring missions to China and Vietnam, and reports annually to AusAID and at the bilateral dialogues (as requested) on outcomes from activities under the program.

Both the dialogues and the HRTC programs provide openings for Australia to influence partners and promote human rights. In itself, our dialogue partners' willingness to engage in such dialogues represents a positive development. The dialogues provide an opportunity to identify areas where Australia can assist dialogue partners in implementing international human rights standards; raising specific human rights concerns; and formally exchanging views and experiences with counterparts. The dialogues also enable human rights practitioners, as well as officials from a range of ministries, to engage on human rights issues.

While our dialogues contribute to change through information exchange, technical assistance and capacity-building, and awareness-raising, we are realistic about attributing specific human rights outcomes solely to specific dialogues. Assessing the direct impact of dialogues on positive developments in partner countries is difficult. The process of change on human rights issues is incremental and is the result of a range of contributing factors including internal developments in the countries concerned. Where positive changes in dialogue partners' approach to human rights do happen, these changes are almost always the result of a combination of factors, including:

- . government policy decisions and directions
- . growth and maturation of NGOs and civil society organisations
- . development of media
- . domestic political reasons
- . improvements in relevant agencies' capacity (our HRTC programs aim to achieve this)
- . maturation of the legal system
- . involvement in multilateral and regional human rights processes including increased awareness and understanding of obligations under international human rights treaties and processes

- . increased awareness by the authorities that the ‘threat’ posed by some groups is in fact minimal
- . increased awareness that a poor human rights record detracts from international standing/reputation
- . economic development and poverty reduction
- . human rights dialogues with other countries
- . direct representations on specific cases (made by Australia alone or in conjunction with other countries)
- . dialogue on human rights issues at the political level (e.g. the Prime Minister raised human rights issues with senior Chinese leaders during her visit to Beijing in April 2011, as did Mr Rudd with his Vietnamese counterpart during his visit to Vietnam in April 2011).

CHINA

The Australia-China HRD provides a regular forum for raising our human rights concerns with China frankly and constructively.

At each HRD, Australia presents China with a list of individual cases of concern, to which China responds in writing. The government, mainly through the Australian embassy in Beijing, follows up on the cases in the list throughout the year. Reports from released prisoners and from NGOs suggest that prisoners who are the subject of international attention, including representations by national governments, are likely to receive better treatment than might otherwise be the case. Reports also suggest such individuals are also more likely to receive sentence reductions or parole than those individuals whose cases remain unknown.

Through the HRD and the associated HRTC program, Australia engages with groups and individuals within Chinese government agencies and judicial organs who are seeking to improve China’s governance and legal system. The majority of outcomes from the HRD in this area are achieved through the HRTC program, which underpins the dialogue process.

Key achievements of the HRTC program include:

- . helping to draft China’s national domestic violence legislation and establishing domestic violence protection orders in courts in six provinces (activities implemented by the All China Women’s Federation from 2005 to 2011);
- . improving the capacity of 110 female mediators and jurors within the Chinese justice system by providing training and professional development opportunities (activities implemented by the All China Women’s Federation in 2011);
- . exposing more than 700 Chinese university students to international human rights norms by delivering a series of model UN Human Rights

Councils (activities implemented by the United Nations Association of China from 2005 to 2010).

VIETNAM

Like the Australia-China HRD, the Australia-Vietnam HRD provides a regular forum for raising human rights issues frankly, constructively and in a structured way. It also enables us to engage at a senior level – and build confidence - with a range of Vietnamese government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Public Security. Together with the HRTC program it provides a pathway for Vietnam to seek Australia’s expertise and assistance on human rights issues.

It is difficult to quantify the outcomes of our HRD with Vietnam. Vietnam’s performance on human rights is influenced by a range of complex factors as noted on page 17-18.

At each HRD, Australia presents Vietnam with two lists of individual cases of concern, to which Vietnam responds in writing. We follow up on the cases in the list throughout the year. The Vietnamese Government usually provides us with a written response to the lists after the HRD. There have been cases where individuals on our lists have been released from prison, but there have also been cases where this has not happened. It is difficult to draw a direct link between specific representations made in the HRD context and releases of individuals on our cases of concern lists, although international representations on such cases do play a role.

It is easier to assess the outcomes of the HRTC program. Key achievements of the program include:

- . improved access to justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups with particular focus on ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Provincial and district level judges and court staff were trained in legal procedures to accommodate the needs of these groups (activities implemented by Vietnam’s Supreme People’s Court in 2008, 2009 and 2010)
- . improved access to justice for ethnic minority communities in six provinces by educating village heads on citizens’ legal rights (activities implemented by Vietnam’s Ministry of Justice in 2010)
- . improved access to legal and health insurance services for women in five targeted provinces by educating them on their rights to access these services (activities implemented by Vietnam Women Union in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010)
- . improved access to justice for criminal offenders achieved by educating prosecutors at local levels on key principles such as the right to a fair trial, equality before the law and the presumption of innocence (activities implemented by Vietnam’s Supreme People’s Prosecution Service in 2010)

- . improved capacity of Vietnamese agencies to implement international and domestic human rights commitments by exchanging ideas with Australian counterparts (activities implemented by all relevant agencies in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010).

See **Appendix A** for further details of these outcomes.

DIALOGUES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

In addition to the dialogues with China and Vietnam, Australia also has a bilateral HRD with Laos. To date, two rounds of the HRD with Laos have been held, in 2006 and 2009. Both rounds of the HRD with Laos were held in Vientiane (funding issues made it difficult for the Lao delegation to travel to Australia in 2009). The next round is intended to take place in late 2011.

In December 2002, Australia and Iran held a bilateral HRD. Australia continues to raise human rights concerns directly with Iranian authorities both in Canberra and in Tehran. Australia also regularly raises concerns about the human rights situation in Iran in international fora, including the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

The Government is not actively pursuing the establishment of human rights dialogues with other countries at this time. The Government would consider any suggestions on a case-by-case basis, noting that any addition to our current dialogues would depend on the willingness of the government or governments concerned.

OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

The Government employs a wide range of tools to promote human rights. The selection of tools in each case will depend on the circumstances in the country concerned as well as the judgements about which tool, or combination of tools, is likely to have the greatest impact.

A key feature of Australia's human rights advocacy is bilateral representations on individual cases as well as systemic human rights issues. Last year, for example Australia made representations to all countries which maintain the death penalty.

Another important component of Australia's human rights advocacy is active participation in multilateral fora at which human rights are regularly discussed, including the UN General Assembly Third Committee and the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). The Government takes part in the UN HRC's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism and participates in the vast majority of the UPRs of UN member states. In the last three sessions of the UPR, Australia delivered statements on 40 out of 47 countries under review. In February 2009 we delivered a statement on the occasion of the UPR of China, making recommendations on abolition of the death penalty, protection of ethnic minorities' religious, political, civic and socio-economic rights, press freedom and the treatment of human rights defenders. In May 2009, we delivered a statement at Vietnam's UPR, making recommendations on press freedom, Vietnam's accession to the Convention Against Torture, and the need for consistency between Vietnam's criminal code and its international human rights treaty commitments.

Australia implements and enforces United Nations Security Council sanctions regimes. A number of these regimes are, at least in part, responses to systematic human rights violations of such gravity to be recognised by the Security Council as threats to or breaches of international peace and security. In addition, Australia imposes sanctions autonomously of the Security Council in response to grave repressions of human rights in Burma, Fiji, Syria and Zimbabwe. Australia also imposes additional sanctions on Libya, which supplement the Security Council's sanctions regime.

Australia's aid program actively promotes human rights through its policies, programs and country strategies. In addition to extensive support for activities which advance economic and social rights in developing countries, an important feature of the aid program is its extensive support for improved governance which helps to create the conditions for the enjoyment of civil and political rights. Other aspects of the aid program which play a direct role in promoting human rights include its strong support for the strengthening of national human rights institutions in the Asia-Pacific region as well as grassroots human rights initiatives. The \$6.5 million Human Rights Fund supports key human rights institutions, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF). It also funds the Human Rights Grants Scheme (HRGS), which in 2010-11 provided \$3.5 million in grants to support human rights projects in 33 countries.

FURTHER STEPS

DFAT will be taking the following additional steps to enhance NGO and Parliamentary engagement in the dialogue process:

- publishing transcripts of press conferences on the DFAT website;
- giving NGOs a longer lead time for making submissions prior to dialogues, before dates are confirmed;
- routinely de-briefing NGOs, the JSCFADT and other interested parliamentarians after each dialogue;
- aiming to have delegations meet with the JSCFADT when dialogues are held in Australia (and where Parliamentarians are available); and
- expanding the interaction between Australian NGOs and visiting delegations (noting that NGOs cannot be present during all interactions).

Table 1**China-Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program****HRTC Activities 2005-2011 – Summary of Impacts**

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
Long Term Study Awards	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011	This activity allowed 11 MFA officials to undertake long-term study on human rights law in Australia. On their return to China the officials were used by the MFA in key roles relevant to human rights and most have been promoted. This activity also creates links between Australian academic and human rights organisations and Chinese Government officials.
Small Activities	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011	This activity provided support for small-scale poverty alleviation projects in ethnic minority villages in Yunnan Province, including capacity building activities for women and funding for water and sanitation. These activities are administered by the Australian Embassy.
Community Corrections Pilot Study Visit	Ministry of Justice, Department of Justice, Shandong Province, Supreme People’s Court, Supreme People’s Procuratorate, Ministry of Public Security, Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People’s Congress, Re-education through Labor, Centre of Compulsory Treatment for Drug Abusers of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous	March 2005	Representatives of agencies responsible for implementing a community corrections pilot program in China travelled to Australia and learnt about the legislative framework and community corrections programs and services in Australia. Chinese representatives established relationships with Australian experts in the community corrections sector. Chinese agencies involved in the community corrections pilot are now better equipped to develop and extend their pilot program nationally.

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
	Region		
Juvenile Justice Study and Design Visit	Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), Prosecution Services of Jilin, Anhui, Shaanxi, Qinghai, Jiangsu, Shenzhen.	April 2005	SPP and provincial prosecution officials travelled to Australia to learn about Australian laws, procedures and practices relating to the protection of the rights of juveniles in the criminal justice system. The activity also established new and strengthened existing professional linkages between the SPP and relevant Australian organisations. As a result of this activity, the SPP enhanced its capacity to introduce operational reforms and contribute to systemic reforms to enhance the protection of the rights of juveniles in the criminal justice system.
Compensation Law Consultation	Supreme People's Court (SPC)	April 2005	The consultations provided the SPC with insights into Australian experience in the field of compensation, with a view to assisting the review process of China's State Compensation Law. The consultation facilitated some exploration of human rights principles and their application to China's compensation laws.
Anti-Trafficking Workshop	All China Women's Federation, Ministry of Public Security, Local Courts, Supreme People's Procuratorate, Ministry of Civil Affairs, and National Working Committee on Children and Women. Participants were drawn from Sichuan, Guizhou, Shannxi, Jiangsu, Yunnan, Henan, Anhui, Guangxi and Chongqing	April 2005	Women's federations and other key agencies enhanced their understanding of combating trafficking of women and children. Participants learnt about a range of anti-trafficking interventions to inform the development of China's anti-trafficking responses. Participants focused on the development of strategies to address vulnerable women, particularly within the 'floating population.'
Human Rights Knowledge Competition	United Nations Association of China	April-June 2005	This activity involved a national competition on human rights knowledge, conducted through the media, with participation from students and other sections of the general public. A total of 10,657 responses were received. As a major public education exercise, it provided a cross-section of Chinese school students and the general public with greater awareness of their rights under international law.

Technical Cooperation (Penitentiary Administration) Identification Visit	Ministry of Public Security (MPS)	July 2005	This study visit allowed MPS officials to learn about Australia's experience in developing laws, policies and practices for protecting and promoting the rights of detainees and prisoners. The activity established professional linkages between the MPS and relevant professionals in the police and correctional systems of New South Wales. The activity enhanced the capacity of the MPS to contribute to reforms involving the development of legislation to regulate the management of penitentiary administration centres.
Domestic Violence Workshop	All China Women's Federation, plus women's federation and NGO representatives from all 31 provinces and autonomous	July 2005	As a result of this activity a large group of Chinese domestic violence service providers and staff of ancillary and related agencies learnt more about a range of domestic violence response mechanisms. These included key Australian approaches such as the use of Apprehended Violence Orders, programs to counsel domestic violence perpetrators, court assistance services for victims, safety plans and quick response mechanisms.
Minority Education Study Visit	Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Department of Education (DOE)	July 2005	The study visit provided TAR DOE officials with information and knowledge about Australian approaches to minority education in some of the areas of basic, vocational, adult and distance education. This activity provided capacity building for the TAR DOE in its efforts to develop policy and practice that will improve access to education to minority groups in Tibet. The study visit helped the delegation to identify parallels between their own situation and that of Indigenous Australians and to identify the strategies and approaches that might be adapted Tibet.
Human Rights Education Audit	National Judges' College (NJC)	July –October 2005	The activity strengthened the capacity of the NJC to progress its program of developing human rights curriculum for trainee judges and included a specific initiative which supported the NJC to produce its own human rights texts. The activity also strengthened and extended professional linkages between the NJC and relevant Australian institutions.
Community Democracy Study Visit	Foundation for Human Rights Development (FHRD), Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), Department of Civil Affairs of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	August 2005	Officials of FHRD and MCA learnt about Australian local government systems, including promoting democratic processes, civic participation, accountability and the effective provision of community services. As a result of the activity, these agencies gained enhanced capacity to pursue their reform initiatives in this field.
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Study Visit	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Supreme People's Procuratorate, Ministry of Public Security, Supreme People's Court, Office of Legislative Affairs of the State Council, Ministry of Justice, National People's Congress	November 2005	The study visit enabled MFA officials and other Chinese agencies to examine Australia legislative and policy measures to implement the requirements of the ICCPR. The activity strengthened the capacity of the MFA and other relevant agencies to promote and prepare for China's ratification of the ICCPR, through implementation of laws and policies consistent with the treaty.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) Design Visit	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office for Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Construction, All China Federation of Trade Unions, Ministry for Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Health, China Disabled Person's Federation, State Ethnic Affairs Commission, Ministry of Education, International Poverty Reduction Centre in China, China Foundation for Human Rights Development, All China Women's Federation.	December 2005	The visit provided capacity building for Chinese agencies with responsibilities relating to China's compliance with its obligations under ICESCR. As a result of this activity, the participating agencies were better equipped to develop measures to implement the recommendations of the UN ICESCR Committee's Concluding Observations on China, released in May 2005.
Model United Nations Commission on Human Rights	United Nations Association of China and 36 Chinese universities	November 2005	This activity provided a key Chinese NGO and a large cross section of Chinese students with knowledge about the operation of the United Nations Human Rights Council and thematic human rights issues affecting China and the global community (HIV/AIDS, women and children's rights). The activity also provided the Chinese students with opportunity to develop and practice skills for effective advocacy of human rights in international relations.
Penitentiary Administration Design Visit	Ministry of Public Security (MPS)	February 2006	This activity provided MPS officials with knowledge of Australian experience and expertise in approaches to the protection of the rights of people in detention. The study visit helped the delegation to identify parallels between their system of detention and that of Australia, and to identify approaches that might be appropriate for adaptation in China.
Juvenile Justice Consultation	Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP)	April 2006	The consultation provided the SPP and local prosecution officials with knowledge of Australian laws, procedures and practices for protecting the rights of juveniles in the criminal justice system. The consultation strengthened professional linkages between the SPP and the government agency responsible for juvenile justice in New South Wales.
People's Assessors Study Visit	National Judges' College (NJC), Supreme People's Court (SPC), Zhejiang Provincial Judges' College	April 2006	The study visit provided the NJC and SPC with new knowledge and information about the operation of the jury system in Australia and protection of human rights in Australia's judicial system. The visit enhanced the capacity of these agencies to progress the development of China's People's Assessor system in a manner consistent with protection and promotion of human rights.

Domestic Violence Study Visit	All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), Chongqing Women's Federation, Women's Federation of Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, Women's Federation of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, Criminal Court of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, Public Security Bureau of Chongqing Municipality.	April 2006	The study visit enhanced the capacity of the ACWF and provincial women's federations to combat domestic violence by providing the delegation with knowledge of Australian practices and mechanisms for combating domestic violence. They met with a range of government and non-government organisations that provide legal assistance and social support to women affected by domestic violence. Delegates also gained a broad understanding of how human rights and gender equality principles are applied in Australia in responses to domestic violence.
Human Rights and Family Planning Seminar	National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), plus Directors, Deputy Directors and staff of family planning commission in the NPFPC's six pilot provinces and autonomous regions.	April 2006	The seminar enhanced the capacity of the NPFPC and family planning commissions in six provinces and autonomous regions to apply human rights based approaches in the delivery of family planning and reproductive health services. Discussions explored the application of these approaches in the current reform agenda for China's family planning system, with a view to developing services that more fully reflect principles of informed choice and human rights.
Penitentiary Administration Workshop	Ministry of Public Security (MPS) and provincial penitentiary departments	May 2006	The workshop provided MPS and provincial penitentiary departments with knowledge of Australian laws, regulations, procedures and programs relating to the administration of detention facilities designed to protect the rights of prisoners and persons held in custody awaiting trial.
Juvenile Justice Study Visit	Supreme People's Court (SPC), Heilongjiang High People's Court, Chengdu Intermediate People's Court, Changning District Court, National Judges College, National People's Congress	May 2006	The visit provided a team of key officials from the SPC and related agencies with knowledge of Australian laws, procedures and practices for protecting the rights of juveniles through the courts and in the criminal justice system generally. The activity also facilitated establishment of professional links between the SPC and Australian courts and institutions working in the field of juvenile justice.

Community Corrections Workshop	Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Provincial Justice Bureaus, International Legal Cooperation Centre, Judicial Research Institute, Ministry of Public Security, Supreme People's Court, Supreme People's Procuratorate, CCP Central Committee, Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Peking University; Beijing Normal University and China University of Political Science and Law.	June 2006	This activity strengthened the capacity of the MOJ to protect the rights of offenders in the development of China's community corrections system. As a result of this activity a broad cross-section of senior Chinese officials who have responsibility for the implementation of the community correction pilot, or input into decisions regarding its expansion, were brought together to critically evaluate the pilot, and plan for its further development. The activity strengthened professional links between the MOJ and the government agencies principally responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating community corrections programs in New South Wales.
Domestic Violence Workshop	All China Women's Federation (ACWF), provincial women's federations, Public Security Bureaus, Coordinating Group on Safeguarding Women and Children's Rights, representatives of China's court system.	July 2006	The workshop enhanced the capacity of the ACWF and local organisations to combat domestic violence in an effective and practical way, including on how to deliver culturally appropriate support services to victims.
Human Rights Guidelines Research	National Population and Family Planning Commission, China Research Centre on Population and Development, Institute of Population Research at Peking University, National People's Congress.	July 2006	This activity led to the development of resource materials to provide guidance for professionals on practical measures to apply human rights principles in the delivery of family planning and reproductive health services.
Human Rights Awareness Needs Assessment	National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC)	July 2006	This activity involved collection of data to guide and assist the development of future programs by the NPFPC to strengthen reproductive health rights in six provinces and autonomous regions. The particular activity was a survey of clients and service providers in six provinces, addressing a range of issues including awareness and understanding of reproductive health rights, the level of choice in contraceptive and treatment options, the degree of privacy afforded to clients and their information, access to complaint mechanisms and overall quality of service.

Community Democracy Workshop	China Foundation for Human Rights Development, Bureau for Civil Affairs in Shanghai, Nanjing, Wuxi and Changzhou, State Council Information Office, Jiangsu Provincial Government, Wuxi Municipal Government, Party School of the CPC Central Committee, Universities, Neighbourhood Committees, Chinese media outlets.	September 2006	The workshop enhanced the capacity of the China Foundation for Human Rights Development (FHRD) and its sponsor, the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), to promote democratic processes, civic participation, accountability and effective service provision by Community Neighbourhood Committees. As a result of this activity, FHRD and MCA are better equipped to incorporate human rights principles into the management and operation of Community Neighbourhood Committees.
Seminar on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Office of the National Working Committee on Women and Children, State Statistics Bureau, Information Office, State Council, United Front Work Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, State Ethnic Affairs Commission, Ministry of Education, All China Women's Federation, All China Federation of Trade Unions, China Society for Human Rights Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing University	October 2006	As a result of this activity MFA's capacity to implement the ICESCR and to prepare China's periodic reports under the Covenant was strengthened. In particular the seminar assisted China to identify key recommendations that it would address in its next report to the Committee, and to begin the process of determining how it will go about addressing the Committee's concerns in a strategic and coordinated manner.
Model United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)	United Nations Association of China and 35 Chinese universities	November 2006	This activity provided a key Chinese NGO and 140 Chinese students with knowledge about the operation of UNHRC and thematic human rights issues affecting China and the global community, with particular focus on the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The activity also provided the participating Chinese students with an opportunity to develop and practice skills for effective advocacy of human rights in international relations.

Penitentiary Administration Design Visit	Ministry of Public Security (MPS)	December 2006	The visit provided MPS officials with an understanding of Australian management procedures and educational programs relating to the protection of the rights of female and juvenile detainees. They gained new insights into measures for ensuring these categories of detainees are rehabilitated and reintegrated into the community after their release. The information from this activity provided guidance for the future development of programs for female and juvenile detainees in MPS penitentiary centres.
People's Assessors Research Seminar	National Judges' College, plus judicial officers and academics from nine provinces.	December 2006	The seminar strengthened the capacity of the NJC to apply human rights principles in training of people's assessors and the development of policies related to people's assessors. Trainees were provided with information on Australian measures for protecting and promoting human rights in the operation of the jury system and in judicial processes generally.
Women's Law Workshop	All China Women's Federation and member organisations of national and provincial women's groups.	March 2007	The workshop enhanced the capacity of China's coordination groups on protection of women's rights and interests. Representatives of those groups were provided with new knowledge on measures to protect women's rights.
Human Rights and Family Planning Training	National Population and Family Planning Commission, plus family planning agencies in the Commission's six pilot provinces.	March 2007	This activity strengthened the capacity of family planning agencies in six pilot provinces to incorporate human rights principles into their work programs. 55 officials were provided with new knowledge and information on protection of human rights in delivery of family planning services.
Anti-Corruption Study Visit	Supreme Procuratorate, Prosecution Services of Shaanxi, Shandong and Chongqing	March-April 2007	This activity provided a key group of SPP officials with an understanding of how Australian agencies, laws, policies and practices operate to combat corruption consistent with the protection and promotion of human rights. The delegation was exposed to alternative approaches to addressing corruption, including an emphasis on prevention. This activity demonstrated that corruption is a systemic issue requiring a systematised response. The insights gained from this activity were aimed at assisting the SPP progress their anti-corruption reform program.
Juvenile Justice Seminar	Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Jiangsu and Nanjing Provincial Procuratorates, and various other municipal procuratorates including the People's Procuratorates of Wuxi, Suzhou, Changzhou, Nantong, Lianyungang, Huaian, Yangcheng, Yangzhou, Zhenjiang, Taizhou and Suqian.	April 2007	The seminar provided 80 Chinese prosecution officials with detailed knowledge of Australian laws, procedures and practices protecting the rights of juveniles in the criminal justice system, with particular emphasis on measures designed to divert offenders from formal prosecution and promote rehabilitation. The seminar provided participants with an understanding of juvenile justice issues to inform policy and legislative reform processes at the central level as well as the practices involved in the administration of juvenile justice at provincial, municipal and local levels.

Penitentiary Administration Seminar	Ministry of Public Security (MPS) and provincial Public Security Bureaus.	April 2007	The seminar strengthened the capacity of MPS to protect and promote the rights of female and juvenile detainees. A large group of Chinese public security officials received new information and knowledge of Australian approaches to the protection of human rights in the administration of detention facilities, with particular reference to measures for protecting the rights of female and juvenile detainees.
Juvenile Justice Workshop	Judges from the Juvenile Divisions of High, Intermediate and District Courts in 23 provinces and autonomous regions.	April 2007	The workshop provided a group of senior Chinese judges with detailed knowledge of relevant Australian policy, laws, procedures and practices for protecting the rights of juveniles in the criminal justice system. As a result of this activity the Supreme People's Court and the National People's Congress were better equipped to progress reforms aimed at providing stronger protection of the rights of juveniles in the criminal justice system, including the establishment of specialist Juvenile Courts.
Prisoner Reintegration Study Visit	Ministry of Justice (MOJ), and Justice Departments of Fujian Province, Tibetan Autonomous Region, Shanxi Province, and Jiangsu Province.	March 2007	The study visit strengthened the capacity of the MOJ to successfully reintegrate prisoners into the community, consistent with protection of their human rights. 7 officials gained knowledge of Australian experience in developing measures for reintegration of prisoners into the community.
Civil Society Consultation	Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA)	March 2007	The consultation supported the development of Chinese civil society by providing China's agency responsible for the administration of NGOs with an understanding of the structure and role of Australian NGOs in the protection of human rights. The consultation involved a visit to Australia by three key officials from the MCA with responsibilities in this area. This activity was aimed at assisting the work of the MCA in its role of overseeing and supporting the activities of Chinese NGOs.
Human Rights Knowledge Competition	United Nations Association of China	January - June 2007	This activity involved a national competition on human rights knowledge, conducted through the media, with participation from students and other sections of the general public. A total of 9,043 responses were received. As a major public education exercise, it provided a cross-section of Chinese school students and the general public with greater awareness of their rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
Domestic Violence Workshop	All China Women's Federation, plus women's federations and public security bureaus in 12 provinces.	July 2007	The workshop enhanced the capacity of women's federations and public security bureaus in 12 provinces to prevent and combat domestic violence. Participants gained knowledge of approaches and mechanisms for protecting the right of women to live free from domestic violence.

Model United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)	United Nations Association of China and 37 Chinese universities	October 2007	This activity provided a key Chinese NGO and 148 Chinese students with knowledge about the operation of UNHRC and thematic human rights issues affecting China and the global community, with a focus on the right to education. The activity also provided the Chinese students with an opportunity to develop and practice skills for effective advocacy of human rights in international relations.
Women's Labour Rights Workshop	All China Women's Federation (ACWF), plus women's federation branches and labour and social security departments in various provinces.	November 2007	The workshop enhanced the capacity of the ACWF and its local operatives to combat discrimination and other forms of unfair treatment of women in the workplace. Women's federation officials and labour inspectors received new knowledge of measures for protecting the rights of women in the workplace.
Penitentiary Administration Study Visit	Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Public Security Departments of Guangdong and Zhejiang Provinces.	November 2007	The study visit strengthened the capacity of MPS to protect and promote the rights of detainees in penitentiary administration centres. 7 officials gained new information and knowledge of Australian measures for protecting and promoting the rights of detainees, based on some perspectives from the WA correctional system.
Human Rights and Family Planning Study Visit	National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), family planning agencies in Jiangxi, Yunnan, Ningxia, and Xinjiang Autonomous Region	November 2007	The study visit strengthened the capacity of NPFPC and provincial family planning services to apply human rights principles in their work programs. 9 officials gained understanding of the rights based framework in Australia for family planning, reproductive and sexual health services.
Legal Aid Workshop	45 full time lawyers and directors of 22 working stations from various provinces and municipalities as well as 13 lawyers and staff from Beijing Legal Aid Working Station for Migrant Workers	January 2008	The workshop provided 58 legal aid lawyers with new information and capabilities in relation to provision of legal aid and protection of the rights of migrant workers. Trainees gained enhanced capacity to promote the protection of the rights of migrant workers in China through direct legal assistance.
Human Rights Knowledge Competition	United Nations Association of China	January– June 2008	This activity involved a national competition on human rights knowledge, conducted through the media, with participation from students and other sections of the general public. The focus was on Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a total of 18,316 responses were received. As a major public education exercise, the activity provided a cross-section of the general public with greater awareness of the role of these standards in protecting their rights, which may lead to increased demand for concrete changes to implement those protections.

Victims of Crime Study Visit	Supreme People's Court (SPC), People's Courts in Hebei and Shandong Provinces	February 2008	The study visit strengthened the capacity of the SPC to protect and promote the rights of victims of crime, through compensation and other measures. 8 judges learnt about Australian measures for protecting and promoting the rights of victims of crime.
Women's Law Workshop	All China Women's Federation plus member organisations of national and provincial coordination groups on women's and children's rights.	April 2008	The workshop enhanced the capacity of China's coordination groups on the protection of women's rights and interests and provided representatives of those groups with knowledge on measures to protect women's rights.
NGO / Government Partnerships Seminar	Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), plus representatives of a range of Chinese non-profit organisations	April 2008	This seminar provided capacity building for MCA and other agencies to support the role of civil society in China. The seminar provided 32 officials with information and knowledge on ways for government and NGOs to work together in ways that are beneficial to protection and promotion of human rights.
Judicial ADR Seminar	National Judges' College (NJC)	April 2008	The seminar strengthened the capacity of the NJC to contribute to reforms involving the development of specialist mediation units within Chinese courts. 80 officials gained knowledge and information on Australia's experience in the development of mediation processes within the court system.
Anti-Corruption Study Visit	Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), plus provincial and municipal prosecution services	April 2008	The study visit provided 6 officials with new knowledge and information on Australian measures for combating corruption and abuse of powers by public officials. The activity presented a wide range of measures, with an emphasis on prevention through training and other measures to develop a culture of integrity in government institutions.
Anti-Corruption Seminar	Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), Tianjin Municipal Prosecution Service	May 2008	50 officials gained new information and knowledge on measures for combating corruption consistent with the protection and promotion of human rights.
Legal Aid Study Visit	Beijing Legal Aid Office for Rural Migrants	May 2008	The study visit provided 5 legal aid lawyers with new information and capacity in relation to the provision of legal aid and the protection of the rights of migrant workers, drawing on Australian experience in this field.
Victims of Crime Seminar	Supreme People's Court (SPC), provincial people's courts	May 2008	The seminar strengthened the capacity of the SPC to protect and promote the rights of victims of crime, through compensation and other measures. 30 judges and other officials gained new knowledge of measures for protecting the rights of victims of crime, including compensation measures and broader support services.
Domestic Violence Workshop	All China Women's Federation (ACWF), women's federation branches and civil affairs departments.	July 2008	The workshop enhanced the capacity of the ACWF, Ministry of Civil Affairs and local women's federations and civil affairs departments to combat domestic violence. Participants acquired knowledge of measures for combating domestic violence and providing services and assistance to victims.

Restorative Justice Study Visit	Ministry of Justice (MOJ)	August 2008	7 officials gained knowledge of Australian law, policies and programs to implement restorative justice.
Children's Rights Study Visit	Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center, Child Protection Committee of the All China Lawyers' Association, Shanxi Child Legal Aid Office	October 2008	The study visit provided 5 legal aid lawyers with increased awareness and capabilities in relation to provision of legal aid and protection of the rights of children.
Anti-Poverty and Human Rights Seminar	State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC), local ethnic affairs commissions	November 2008	To strengthen the capacity of the SEAC to protect and promote the rights of ethnic minorities through the development of effective anti-poverty measures. 36 officials gained information and knowledge on measures for alleviating poverty among ethnic minority groups.
Penitentiary Administration Policy Consultations	Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Public Security Departments in Hubei and Guangdong Provinces	November 2008	The activity strengthened the capacity of MPS to protect and promote the rights of detainees in penitentiary administration centres. A core group of Chinese officials with responsibilities for policy and program development in the detention system acquired new knowledge arising from direct consultations with their Australian counterparts.
Model United Nations Human Rights Council	United Nations Association of China and 36 Chinese universities	November 2008	This activity provided a key Chinese NGO and 144 Chinese students with knowledge about the operation of UNHRC and thematic human rights issues affecting China and the global community. The activity also provided Chinese students with an opportunity to develop and practice skills for effective advocacy of human rights in international relations.
Domestic Violence Study Visit	All China Women's Federation (ACWF), Ministry of public Security, Supreme People's Court, National People's Congress, State Council and Communist Party.	December 2008	The study visit enhanced the capacity of the ACWF and other key agencies to progress their work on a major reform to develop China's first national law on domestic violence. The delegates gained new knowledge and information from Australian experience in this field, to assist their efforts in drafting and development of China's new law.
Legislation and Judicial Action Study Visit	National Judges' College (NJC), Supreme People's Court	December 2008	The study visit strengthened the capacity of the NJC to contribute to the development of judicial practices consistent with the protection and promotion of human rights. 6 officials gained knowledge of legislative and judicial measures in Australia to protect and promote the rights of citizens.
Privacy and Family Planning Consultation	National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), family planning agencies in Yunnan and Guizhou	December 2008	The consultation enhanced the capacity of family planning agencies in the NPFPC's pilot provinces to apply privacy principles in delivery of family planning and reproductive health services. The activity supported the development of privacy guidelines that were being drafted (and were later launched in 2010)

Human Rights Knowledge Competition	United Nations Association of China	January-June 2009	This activity involved a national competition on human rights knowledge, conducted through the media, with participation from students and other sections of the general public. The focus was on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and a total of 28,910 responses were received. As a major public education exercise, the activity provided a cross-section of the general public with human rights knowledge, with particular reference to the MDGs.
Judicial Accountability Study Visit	Supreme People's Court (SPC)	February 2009	7 officials gained information and knowledge of Australian measures for promoting accountability and public confidence in the judicial system. This information will assist the SPC in progressing its 2009-2013 Judicial Reform Plan.
Domestic Violence Workshop	All China Women's Federation, Supreme People's Court, provincial women's federations and provincial people's courts.	April 2009	The workshop enhanced the capacity of women's federations and courts in China to combat domestic violence and protect the rights of women. Participants gained new insights from Australian initiatives in this field, with particular emphasis on measures applied through the court system.
Minor Offences Study Visit	Ministry of Justice, Bureau of Justice of Qingdao City, Bureaus of Treatment of Drug Abusers in Shanxi Province and Anhui Province	April 2009	The study visit supported the proposed review of China's Re-Education Through Labour System, as well as the development of non-custodial sentencing options for persons who commit minor offences. 7 officials gained knowledge of Australian measures for dealing with citizens who commit minor offences, consistent with the protection of human rights.
Children's Rights Legal Aid Workshop	Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Centre	May 2009	The workshop provided 55 legal professionals with new information and capabilities to assist their work in providing legal assistance for children and advocating for reforms to the juvenile justice and child welfare systems in China.
Human Rights and Family Planning Workshop	National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), plus provincial family planning agencies	May 2009	The workshop enhanced the capacity of family planning agencies in the NPFPC's pilot provinces to apply privacy principles in the delivery of family planning and reproductive health services. 45 officials learnt about Australian measures for protection of privacy rights in family planning and reproductive health services.
Development of Social Organisations Seminar 1	Ministry of Civil Affairs and representatives of Chinese non-profit organisations	May 2009	The seminar supported the development of civil society by providing relevant agencies with information and insights based on Australian experience in this field. 48 officials learnt about the ways in which government and civil society organisations can work together in ways that are beneficial to the rights of Chinese citizens, including women, children and minorities.
Development of Social Organisations Seminar 2	Ministry of Civil Affairs and representatives of Chinese non-profit organisations	May 2009	The seminar supported the development of civil society by providing relevant agencies with new information and insights based on Australian experience in this field. 46 officials learnt about the ways in which government and civil society organisations can work together in ways that are beneficial to the rights of Chinese citizens, including women, children and minorities.

Penitentiary Administration Study Visit	Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Public Security Departments in Liaoning Province, Shaanxi Province, Tianjin	September 2009	The study visit strengthened the capacity of MPS to protect and promote the rights of detainees in penitentiary administration centres by providing 6 officials with new information and knowledge about measures to protect and promote the rights of detainees.
Workshop on Judicial Review of Administrative Decisions	National Judges' College (NJC), Supreme People's Court	October 2009	The workshop strengthened the capacity of the NJC to develop judicial practices consistent with the protection and promotion of human rights. 60 officials gained new information and knowledge about Australian experience in judicial review of administrative decisions.
Judicial Accountability Seminar	Supreme People's Court (SPC) and provincial courts, National Judges' College, Supreme People's Procuratorate	October 2009	The seminar strengthened the capacity of the SPC to pursue reforms aimed at improving accountability and public confidence in China's judicial system. 50 officials from judicial and related agencies gained new knowledge on this subject area. The information from this activity was designed to assist the SPC's implementation of its 2009-2013 Judicial Reform Plan.
Workers' Rights Study Visit	Beijing Legal Aid Organisation for Migrant Workers	November 2009	The study visit provided 5 legal aid lawyers with information and knowledge on the Australian experience in the protection of workers' rights that will assist their research and advocacy on new models for protecting the rights of migrant workers.
Model United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)	United Nations Association of China, plus 54 Chinese universities	November 2009	This activity provided a key Chinese NGO and 212 Chinese students with knowledge about the operation of UNHRC and thematic human rights issues affecting China and the global community, with particular focus on i) the universality and speciality of human rights, and ii) the right to education for children. The activity also provided Chinese students with the opportunity to develop and practice skills for effective advocacy of human rights in international relations.
Domestic Violence Legislation Workshop	All China Women's Federation (ACWF), women's federations and women's rights coordination groups, from Shanghai, Liaoning, Henan, Xiamen, Jiangsu and Ningbo.	December 2009	The workshop enhanced the capacity of the ACWF and other key agencies to contribute to the development of a national law on domestic violence consistent with a human rights framework. 80 officials learnt about legislative measures to combat domestic violence that will inform the drafting process for China's new domestic violence law.
Anti-Poverty and Human Rights Study Visit	State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC)	December 2009	The study visit strengthened the capacity of the SEAC to protect and promote the rights of ethnic minorities through the development of effective anti-poverty measures. 6 officials learnt about laws, policies and programs implemented in Australia to combat poverty among indigenous and ethnic minority groups.
Seminar on Charitable Foundations	Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), plus a range of Chinese Non-profit and charitable organisations	January 2010	The activity supported the development of Chinese civil society, with a focus on the emerging charitable sector. More than 60 officials from MCA and non-profit organisations learnt about the Australian experience in the development and operation of charitable organisations.

Seminar on Reporting on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Supreme People's Court, National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Education. Academic institutions and government-affiliated mass-organisations also participated.	February 2010	The seminar strengthened the capacity of MFA and other relevant agencies to implement the ICESCR and enhance the quality of China's periodic reports under the treaty. Approximately 35 government officials gained a better understanding of measures for protecting the rights provided for by the ICESCR and measures for complying with reporting requirements under the ICESCR.
Human Rights Needs Assessment	National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC)	February 2010	This activity involved a survey to collect data that will benefit the NPFPC's ongoing reforms in family planning. The survey involved 1,815 Chinese respondents and aimed to assess the capacity of family planning agencies in the NPFPC's pilot provinces and autonomous regions to apply human rights principles in delivery services, and identify key issues, needs and challenges.
Human Rights and Family Planning Project Consultation	National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), provincial family planning services	March 2010	The consultation enhanced the capacity of the NPFPC and provincial family planning services to apply human rights principles in their work programs; with a view to this knowledge being incorporated into local work plans. 50 officials participated in the consultation, which included comments and input by experts on draft work plans for 2010-2012 for each of the six pilot provinces.
Social Organisations Study Visit	Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), Service Centre for Social Organisations, Department of Civil Affairs of Jiangsu Province, Department of Civil Affairs of Hebei Province, China Association of Social Organisations Promotion, China Youth University for Political Sciences	March 2010	The study visit supported the development of Chinese civil society by providing 7 representatives from the MCA and Chinese non-profit organisations with an understanding of the operation and structure of Australian NGOs working in areas relevant to human rights.
Domestic Violence Jurors' Workshop	All China Women's Federation, Supreme People's Court, Ministry of Justice, women's federations and courts, representing all 31 provinces and autonomous regions.	April 2010	The workshop enhanced the capacity of women's federation members who work as jurors and mediators to apply human rights principles in the cases they deal with in China's judicial system, including cases involving domestic violence. 120 officials gained greater awareness and understanding of human rights principles applicable to domestic violence mediations and court cases.
Workers' Rights Legal Aid Workshop	Beijing Legal Aid Organisation for Migrant Workers	June 2010	60 lawyers and administrators of legal aid centres were provided with new information and knowledge to assist their work in protecting migrant workers' rights through individual casework, education, advocacy and participation in dispute settlement processes

Minor Offences Seminar	Ministry of Justice, Heilongjiang Provincial Justice Department.	June 2010	The study visit supported the proposed review of China's Re-Education Through Labour System, as well as more generally the development of non-custodial sentencing options for persons who commit minor offences. 45 officials gained knowledge of Australian measures for dealing with citizens who commit minor offences, consistent with protection of their human rights.
Human Rights Knowledge Competition	United Nations Association of China	June-November 2010	This activity involved a national competition on human rights knowledge, conducted through the media, with participation from students and other sections of the general public. The focus was on the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). A total of 18,233 responses were received. As a major public education exercise, the activity provided a cross-section of the general public with greater awareness and knowledge of the rights guaranteed under ICESCR.
Human Rights and Family Planning Training	National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), family planning agencies from 11 provinces and autonomous regions	July 2010	This training strengthened the capacity of the NPFPC and provincial officials to apply human rights principles in the delivery of family planning services. 56 officials gained new information and knowledge on issues related to human rights and family planning, including methodologies for evaluating programs, and relevant provisions of China's National Human Rights Action Plan.
Police Supervision Study Visit	Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP)	September 2010	The study visit strengthened the capacity of the SPP and local prosecution services to combat police corruption consistent with the protection and promotion of human rights. 6 officials gained information and knowledge of Australian measures for combating police corruption, including exposure to the role of watchdog agencies such as the Police Integrity Commission. The activity also emphasized the need for checks and balances to ensure that anti-corruption measures do not themselves infringe basic rights and freedoms.
Domestic Violence Study Visit	All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Civil Affairs, National People's Congress	October – November 2010	The study visit enhanced the capacity of the ACWF and other key stakeholders to implement effective policy and service delivery measures to combat domestic violence. 9 officials learnt about Australia's government and NGO responses to domestic violence to assist in the development of comparable measures in China.
Workers' Rights Internship	Beijing Legal Aid (BLA) Organisation for Migrant Workers	October-December 2010	The internship strengthened the capacity of BLA to provide legal assistance, research and advocacy to protect the human rights of migrant workers. The activity provided a lawyer from BLA with in-depth understanding of Australian measures for protecting the rights of vulnerable workers, which will help inform initiatives being pursued by BLA in relation to migrant workers in China.

Human Rights and Family Planning On-Site Monitoring	National Population and Family Planning Commission, family planning agencies in Ningxia and Jiangxi	November 2010	Provincial family planning officials were provided with new information and knowledge of reproductive health rights, which will assist the ongoing implementation of the provincial pilot programs they are administering.
Model United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)	United Nations Association of China, and 61 Chinese universities	November 2010	This activity provided a key Chinese NGO and 233 Chinese students with knowledge about the operation of UNHRC and thematic human rights issues affecting China and the global community, with particular focus on i) the rights of people with disabilities, and ii) human rights and the global financial crisis. The activity also provided the Chinese students with opportunity to develop and practice skills for effective advocacy of human rights in international relations.
Seminar on Government Purchase of NGO Services	Ministry of Civil Affairs	December 2010	The seminar supported the development of Chinese civil society, with particular focus on NGOs contracted to provide services on behalf of Government. 57 government and NGO representatives were provided with knowledge of Australian practices and approaches to government purchase of services from NGOs working in areas relevant to human rights.
Children's Rights Internship	Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Centre (BCLARC)	February – April 2011	The internship strengthened the capacity of BCLARC, a grass roots legal aid organisation, to provide advocacy and legal assistance to protect the human rights of children. This activity provided a lawyer/researcher from BCLARC with in-depth understanding of Australia's measures to protect the rights of children. As a follow-up from the internship, BCLARC undertook to prepare a publication detailing the knowledge gained in Australia and its application to reforms relevant to children's rights in China. It is expected the publication will be distributed to a wide network of stakeholders and experts in China and used as part of BCLARC's advocacy for change and reform.
Sentencing and Human Rights Study Visit	Supreme People's Court (SPC)	March 2011	The study visit strengthened the capacity of the SPC to protect and promote human rights in their sentencing policies and procedures, a key priority in accordance with their 2009-2013 Judicial Reform Plan. 5 judges with responsibilities for implementing judicial reforms were provided with knowledge of Australian laws, procedures and practices to ensure proportionality and consistency in sentencing. They also gained knowledge of diversionary and non-custodial sentencing options for lower risk and vulnerable offenders.

Study Visit on NGOs and Vulnerable Citizens	Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA)	March 2011	This activity supported the development of Chinese civil society, including alternative approaches to managing relationships between governments and NGOs. 6 officials from MCA studied Australian NGOs that support vulnerable citizens, focussing on two key sectors, women and people with disabilities. The discussions examined methodologies for effective partnerships between these agencies and governments. The insights gained as a result of the activity will be incorporated into MCA's on-going policy and program work, particularly their efforts to support NGOs that represent the interests of women and people with disabilities.
Seminar on Protection of Cultural Diversity	State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC), provincial and local ethnic and religious affairs commissions (including from Yunnan, Shanghai, Chongqing, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Heilongjiang, Fujian, Hubei, Sichuan, Guizhou and Xinjiang Autonomous Region), Minzu University of China, Hubei University for Nationalities, South-Central University for Nationalities, Lijiang Teachers College, National Museum of China, Nationalities University of Minzu University, Guangxi Museum of Nationalities, Ningxia Museum, and Yunnan Nationalities Museum.	April 2011	The seminar strengthened the capacity of SEAC and other government officials and stakeholders to protect and promote the human rights of ethnic minorities, through measures to support cultural diversity in the delivery of policies and programs. 40 participants gained a deeper understanding of human rights principles in their application to cultural diversity to incorporate into their future work. These include issues such as greater participation by minority communities in developing programs and policies, better processes for engagement and consultation, and creating opportunities for minorities to be employed in the public service and hold senior government positions.
Workshop on Domestic Violence and Legal Aid Services	All China Women's Federation (ACWF), local women's federation branches, Ministry of Justice, provincial justice departments, provincial and municipal legal aid centres.	April 2011	The workshop built the capacity of the ACWF and women's federation members who work in women's legal aid centres to effectively provide legal aid services to women and children who have experienced domestic violence. New information and knowledge on this subject area was provided to 112 officials. As a result of this activity, the participants are better equipped to apply human rights principles and gender awareness to their work in China's legal aid system.

Police Supervision Seminar	Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), Hainan Provincial Prosecution Service	April 2011	The seminar strengthened the capacity of the SPP to develop effective measures for the supervision of police conduct, consistent with the protection and promotion of human rights. The activity facilitated substantial flows of detailed information and dialogue between Australian and Chinese officials in the field of police supervision. Feedback from the SPP indicates that Australia's experience and expertise in this field is considered relevant to China's reform agenda in this field. The Chinese Government currently views strengthening police supervision and combating all types of official corruption as a national priority, recognising their implications for economic development and social stability.
Sentencing and Human Rights Seminar	Supreme People's Court (SPC), plus provincial and local courts	May 2011	The seminar provided additional support to the SPC in the sentencing reforms currently being pursued through its 'tempering justice with mercy' policy. That policy is an integral part of the SPC's Five Year Judicial Reform Plan (2009-2013). This activity strengthened the capacity of the SPC to ensure proportionality and consistency in sentencing and to develop sentencing responses which protect and promote the human rights of offenders.
Community Corrections Study Visit	Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Department of Heilongjiang Province, Justice Department of Guizhou Province, Justice Department of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, State Commission Office for Public Sector Reform	May 2011	The study visit supported a nationwide pilot program on community corrections being administered by MOJ. The pilot is part a broader reform agenda of the Chinese Government involving an emphasis on non-custodial and community-based programs as more appropriate measures for dealing with minor offences than detention and other harsh penalties. The study visit provided 6 officials with the opportunity to learn about human rights principles in community corrections programs. The activity provided information about strategies for vulnerable offenders including women, juveniles and minorities that would encourage better protection of their rights and interests.
Domestic Violence Training for Jurors and Mediators	All China Women's Federation (ACWF), and women's federation branches from all 31 provinces and autonomous regions.	June 2011	This activity strengthened the capacity of the ACWF, and women's federation members who act as people's jurors and mediators, to apply human rights principles to their work in China's judicial system. 110 officials who work as people's jurors or mediators received new information and developed new skills, drawing upon Australian experience in this field.

Family Planning and Human Rights Training	National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), provincial family planning agencies	June 2011	The seminar strengthened the capacity of the NPFPC and family planning officials at the local level to deliver services that are consistent with rights guaranteed by Chinese laws and international agreements to which China is party. The workshop discussed practical measures to ensure that human rights are promoted and protected in the delivery of family planning and reproductive health services. It focussed specifically on (1) methods to ensure privacy protection, and (2) the International Planned Parenthood Federation Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights. The 60 trainees also gained stronger awareness of ways to tailor family planning services to the special needs of vulnerable groups, such as ethnic minorities, young people and people with a disability. The NPFPC has indicated that the information from this activity will feed into their ongoing reform agenda, including local pilot programs.
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Table 2

Vietnam-Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program

HRTC Activities 2006-2011 – Summary of Impacts

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
Access to Justice Study Visit	Supreme People’s Court (SPC), People’s Court of Hung Yen Province, People’s Court of Can Tho City, People’s Court of Binh Dinh Province, People’s Court of 1 st District in Ho Chi Minh City, Court of Appeal in Ho Chi Minh City	October 2006	Capacity building for the SPC in its efforts to enhance access to justice in the court system. 10 senior judicial officials gained an introduction to measures in Australia’s legal system for protecting the rights and interests of individuals who come before the courts, both as parties and as witnesses. The visit included examination of relevant laws, the development of court procedures, the training of judges and discussion of key issues such as judicial independence. The activity also resulted in the establishment of professional linkages between the SPC and Australian courts and judges, and contributed to the design of subsequent activities with the SPC, being the training for District Court judges, in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.
Seminar on International Human Rights Treaties, Northern Region	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Defence, Supreme People’s Court, Procuracy, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Information, Government Committee for Religious Affairs, Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs, Party Central Commission for International Affairs, Vietnam Women’s Union and the Human Rights Institute of the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy. A large	January 2007	Capacity building for MOFA and other agencies with responsibilities relevant to Vietnam’s obligations under five key human rights treaties to implement and report on those treaties. The seminar introduced participants to the content, obligations and reporting processes associated with those treaties, as well as Vietnamese laws relevant to implementation of those treaties. Capacity building was provided to 80 officials from northern Vietnam.

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
	proportion of the participants were from People's Committees in the northern provinces of Vietnam.		
Legal Dissemination Seminar, Northern Region	Ministry of Justice (MOJ), plus justice departments in 32 northern provinces	April 2007	Capacity building for MOJ in its role of disseminating information to government officials and the general population about legal rights and responsibilities under Vietnamese law. Approximately 100 officials responsible for information dissemination from departments of justice in 32 northern provinces attended the seminar. Participants increased their knowledge and understanding of Vietnamese laws affecting the right of citizens (especially the Civil Code, Law on Complaints and Denunciations, National Constitution) and well as human rights principles under international laws recognised by Vietnam. They also gained new skills in methodologies for conducting effective information and education programs in local communities.
Women's Rights Legal Advocacy Materials	Vietnam Women's Union	April 2007	Production of 250 copies of the book 'Ask and Answer about Women's Rights'. The publication is a resource for raising awareness of the existing laws protecting women's rights in Vietnam and the ways in which they operate. The main focus was on awareness-raising for the local women's union staff in two provinces, Nam Dinh and Hung Yen, and members of the local communities in these areas. Copies of the book were distributed to local and provincial women's unions in the two pilot provinces to continue to use as a reference and in future training and legal dissemination activities.
Seminar on International Human Rights Treaties, Central Region	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Committee of Da Nang City, local law-enforcement and judicial bodies and other local authorities from 17 provinces in the central regions of Vietnam.	June 2007	67 participants from central Vietnam learnt about the implementation and reporting on international human rights treaties to which Vietnam has acceded.
Women's Rights Train the Trainer Workshop	Vietnam Women's Union, provincial, district and commune levels women's unions in Nam Dinh and Hung Yen, Ministry of Justice, National Committee for the Advancement of Women in Vietnam, Women's Cadre School.	May 2007	Capacity building for women's union members in advocating for the legal rights of women in Vietnam. New information and knowledge was provided to 30 officials, most from provincial, district and commune level women's unions in two target provinces, Nam Dinh and Hung Yen. The training workshop provided participants with a broad overview and in-depth information about the content of women's rights in international instruments and the laws and mechanisms to protect and promote women's rights in Vietnam. It enabled the participants to gain insight and new

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
			perspectives by examining and drawing comparisons with the Australian models for protecting and promoting women's rights, including existing laws, agencies and mechanisms in Australia.
Access to Justice Training, Northern Region	Supreme People's Court, District Courts in northern Vietnam	July 2007	Capacity building for SPC and District courts in promoting access to justice. 53 judges and staff of District Courts in northern Vietnam received new information on both Australian and Vietnam measures for protecting the rights of parties in judicial proceedings.
Access to Justice Training , Southern Region	Supreme People's Court, District Courts in southern Vietnam	July 2007	Capacity building for SPC and District courts in promoting access to justice. 43 judges and staff of District Courts in southern Vietnam received new information on both Australian and Vietnam measures for protecting the rights of parties in judicial proceedings.
Legal Dissemination Seminar, Northern Region	Ministry of Justice, plus justice departments in 32 northern provinces	August 2007	Capacity building for MOJ in its role of disseminating information to government officials and the general population about legal rights and responsibilities under Vietnamese law. New information and capabilities were provided to approximately 100 officials responsible for legal dissemination from departments of justice in 32 southern provinces.
Seminar on International Human Rights Treaties, Southern Region	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Committees of 19 provinces in southern Vietnam, People's Procuracy of Ho Chi Minh City, People's Court of HCM City, Department of Public Security, Department of Internal Affairs, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Education, Women's Union of HCM City, Labor Union of HCM City, Youth Union, Committee for Religious Affairs, Committee for Fatherland Front, Committee for Overseas Vietnamese, HCM City Union of Friendship Organisations, Sponsorial	August 2007	Strengthened capacity for implementation and reporting on international human rights treaties which Vietnam has acceded to. New information and capabilities provided to 65 participants from southern Vietnam.

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
	Association for Poor Patients, and Law Defender Journal.		
Women's Rights District and Commune Training, Nam Dinh and Hung Yen	Vietnam Women's Union, district and local level women's unions in Nam Dinh and Hung Yen Provinces	August 2007	Capacity building for women's union members in Nam Dinh and Hung Yen Provinces in knowledge and understanding of women's rights under Vietnamese law, and skills for advocacy and education on women's rights for local communities in the two provinces. 200 participants received training at four separate courses in different locations, each involving 50 trainees. Topics addressed in the training included women's rights in international law and relevant domestic Vietnamese law.
Women's Rights Talk Shows	Vietnam Women's Union	November – December 2007	Capacity building for 3000 community women who participated in the talk shows, including raising awareness of the laws protecting their rights and information about how to access the protections and remedies. This activity involved a presentation of Women's Rights 'Talk Shows' (i.e. public forums) in 12 target communes in Hung Yen and Nam Dinh Provinces. A total of 48 shows were presented, consisting of four shows in each of the twelve target provinces. In total, there were approximately 3,000 participants. Four key topics were covered in these sessions: i) the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, and its application in Vietnamese law; ii) the Law on Gender Equality; iii) the Law on Marriage and the Family; iv) the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence.
Women's Rights Newsletters / Legal Bulletins	Vietnam Women's Union	February 2008	Publication of a series of women's rights newsletters/legal bulletins, in three editions over a period of approximately 6 months. Following publication, these materials were distributed by local women's unions to 12,000 households in twelve target communes in Nam Dinh and Hung Yen Provinces. The legal bulletins produced in this activity have enhanced the capacity the VWU and its local operatives to raise awareness of women's rights and gender equality issues among women and families. Through the direct provision of resource materials to households in the target communes, this activity has assisted woman in those communes become better informed about their legal rights, and thus better equipped to protect and promote their rights, particularly in the area of domestic violence.
Women's Rights Legal Consultations	Vietnam Women's Union	January 2008	This activity involved a series of consultations on women's legal rights. The consultations were held in the twelve target communes in Hung Yen and Nam Dinh Provinces, in December 2007 and January 2008. The sessions involved provision of advice and guidance to community women in the twelve target communes on their rights under Vietnamese law.

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
Development of Legal Booklets	Ministry of Justice	June 2008	Production of 4,000 booklets to be used by local justice officials to disseminate information to citizens about their rights and responsibilities under Vietnamese law. The booklet was also translated into three local languages (H'Mong, Bahna and Kho'me). Copies of the booklet were distributed to legal dissemination officials in all 64 provinces. The booklet was intended as a key resource in the education and dissemination work undertaken by justice officials at district and commune level.
Legal Dissemination Training, Lao Cai and Yen Bai	Ministry of Justice, departments of justice in Lao Cai and Yen Bai Provinces	October 2008	Capacity building for 100 provincial justice officials in Lao Cai and Yen Bai Provinces as part of their role of disseminating information about legal rights and responsibilities under Vietnamese law. Topics covered in training included the Civil Code, law on Complaints and Denunciation, and skills in conducting community education.
Legal Dissemination Training, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen	Ministry of Justice, departments of justice in Binh Dinh and Phu Yen Provinces	October 2008	Training for 100 legal dissemination officials from justice departments in Binh Dinh and Phu Yen Provinces. Topics covered in training included the Civil Code, law on Complaints and Denunciation, and skills in conducting community education.
Access to Justice Study Visit	Supreme People's Court (SPC), People's Courts of Thai Binh, Ninh Thuan, People's Court of Tay Ninh Province, Ninh Binh and Quang Binh Provinces	November 2008	Capacity building for the SPC and other courts in developing measures to ensure access to justice and human rights protection for citizens involved in court proceedings. 10 officials were given knowledge and information on Australian laws, policies and programs that implement access to justice principles. A particular emphasis was given to measures to support vulnerable members of society such as children, women, ethnic minorities and the economically disadvantaged. The information exchanged during the visit should feed into the SPC's efforts to develop court procedures that facilitate greater access to justice, for victims, offenders and witnesses.
Women's Rights Train the Trainer Workshop	Vietnam Women's Union, provincial district and commune level women's unions in Bac Ninh, Vinh Long and Quang Binh Provinces.	November 2008	This activity provided training for 60 women's union officials in Bac Ninh, Vinh Long and Quang Binh. The content of the training included: international human rights law; women's and children's rights in international law; the domestic implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in Vietnam and Australia; women's rights under Vietnamese law including a specific examination of the <i>Gender Equality Law</i> , <i>Marriage and Family Law</i> and the <i>Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence</i> and the draft <i>Anti-Trafficking</i> .
Criminal Justice Study and Design	Supreme People's Prosecution Service	November – December	Capacity building for the SPP in protecting human rights in the criminal justice system. The study visit meant that a group of 5 procurators with responsibilities

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
Visit		2008	realting to criminal prosecution could learn about Australia's systems for protecting and promoting the rights of individuals within the criminal justice system.
Women's Rights District Level Training, Hung Yen	Vietnam Women's Union, district level women's unions in Hung Yen Province.	December 2008	Training for 30 district level women's union officials in Hung Yen Province to build legal awareness and knowledge of women's rights and advocacy skills.
Women's Rights District Level Training, Nam Dinh	Vietnam Women's Union, district level women's unions in Nam Dinh Province.	December 2008	Training for 30 district level women's union officials in Nam Dinh Province to build legal awareness and knowledge of women's rights and advocacy skills.
Human Rights Training for Lawyers, Northern Region	Vietnam Lawyers' Association	February 2009	Human Rights Training for 50 lawyers and other legal professionals from northern provinces of Vietnam.
Human Rights Training for Lawyers, Central Region	Vietnam Lawyers' Association	February 2009	Human Rights Training for 50 lawyers and other legal professionals from central provinces of Vietnam.
Human Rights Training for Lawyers, Southern Region	Vietnam Lawyers' Association	February 2009	Human Rights Training for 50 lawyers and other legal professionals from southern provinces of Vietnam.
Establishment of Women's Legal Clubs	Vietnam Women's Union	March 2009	Assistance with the establishment of 12 'women's legal clubs' in two target provinces (Hung Yen and Nam Dinh). These clubs will have the role of disseminating information on women's human rights and women's rights under Vietnamese law and providing legal advice and consultation to women and advocacy for women's rights in the local community. Assistance included training for staff and board members of the clubs and provision of resource materials.
Access to Justice Seminar, Northern Region	Supreme People's Court, District Courts in northern Vietnam	March 2009	Capacity building for SPC and District courts in promoting access to justice, with a particular focus on victims of crime. 40 judges and staff of District Courts in northern Vietnam received new information on measures for protecting the rights of victims.
Access to Justice Seminar, Southern Region	Supreme People's Court, District Courts in southern Vietnam	March 2009	Capacity building for SPC and District courts in promoting access to justice, with a particular focus on victims of crime. 40 judges and staff of District Courts in southern Vietnam received new information on measures for protecting the rights of victims.
Legal	Ministry of Justice	March 2009	Training for 108 commune level justice officials in Dac Nong, Dac Lac and Binh

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
Dissemination Training			Phuoc Provinces. Topics covered in training included the Civil Code, law on Complaints and Denunciation, and skills in conducting community education.
Women's Rights District and Commune Level Training, Bac Ninh	Vietnam Women's Union, women's unions in Bac Ninh Province	March 2009	Training provided to 35 district and commune level women's union officials from Bac Ninh Province. The training addressed key provisions in Vietnamese law, and its application in the local context for women at grass roots level.
Women's Rights District and Commune Level Training, Quang Binh	Vietnam Women's Union, women's unions in Quang Binh Province	April 2009	Training for 35 District and Commune level women's union officials from Quang Binh Province to build legal awareness and knowledge of women's rights and advocacy skills. The training addressed key provisions in Vietnamese law, and its application in the local context for women at grass roots level.
Women's Rights District and Commune Level Training, Vinh Long	Vietnam Women's Union, women's unions in Quang Binh Province	April 2009	Training provided to 35 District and Commune level women's union officials from Vinh Long Province to build legal awareness and knowledge of women's rights and advocacy skills. The training addressed key provisions in Vietnamese law, and its application in the local context for women at grass roots level.
Legal Dissemination Training	Ministry of Justice	April 2009	Training for 122 commune level justice officials in Soc Trang, Bac Lieu and Ca Mau Provinces. Topics covered in training included the Vietnamese Civil Code, laws on complaints and denunciation, and skills in conducting community education.
Human Rights Treaties Seminar, Central Highlands Region	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provincial people's committees, public security departments, justice departments, people's courts, people's procuracies, external affairs departments, ethnic affairs committees and other agencies.	April 2009	Capacity building for officials from five provinces in the Central Highlands region of Vietnam: Lam Ding, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Dak Lak and Dak Nong. 60 officials received training on implementation of their responsibilities relevant to Vietnam's compliance with key international human rights treaties.
Legal Dissemination Study Visit	Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ca Mau Provincial Justice Department	May - June 2009	Capacity building for MOJ in its role disseminating information about Vietnamese law and the legal rights of citizens. 7 officials gained information and knowledge of Australia's experience in implementing programs to educate and inform citizens about their legal and human rights. Several of the officials who participated in the study visit were members of the drafting committee for proposed new Vietnamese legislation on Legal Education and Dissemination, scheduled to be submitted to the Minister later that year. The proposed legislation represented a concrete opportunity to translate

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
			relevant findings from the study visit into legal policy reform in Vietnam.
Women's Rights Talk Shows	Vietnam Women's Union	June 2009	This activity involved presentation of Women's Rights 'Talk Shows' (i.e. public forums) in 18 target communes in Bac Ninh, Quang Binh and Vinh Long Provinces. A total of 72 shows were presented. In total, there were approximately 3,600 participants. Four key topics were covered in these sessions: i) the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, and its application in Vietnamese law; ii) the Law on Gender Equality; iii) the Law on Marriage and the Family; iv) the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence.
Women's Rights Newsletters / Legal Bulletins	Vietnam Women's Union	July 2009	Publication of a series of women's rights newsletters/legal bulletins, in three editions over a period of approximately 10 months. Following publication, these materials were distributed by local women's unions to households in 18 target communes in Bac Ninh, Quang Binh and Vinh Long Provinces. Content included information about newly promulgated laws, analysis of how particular laws impact on women, and 'ask and answer' sections about women's rights and the law. The legal bulletins produced in this activity have enhanced the capacity the VWU and its local operatives to raise awareness of women's rights and gender equality issues among women and families. Through the direct provision of resource materials to households in the target communes, this activity has assisted woman in those communes become better informed about their legal rights, and thus better equipped to protect and promote their rights, particularly in the area of domestic violence.
Women's Rights Legal Advocacy Materials	Vietnam Women's Union	July 2009	Production and distribution of 1,000 copies of the book 'Questions and Answers on Women's Legal Rights' and 27,000 copies of legal bulletins examining new or recent laws and legal documents promulgated by the National Assembly. Content of these materials includes information on specific laws such as the Civil Law, Criminal Law and Code of Criminal Procedure, Law on Marriage and Family, the Population Ordinance, Law on Protection and People's Health, Labour Law, Law on Gender Equality and the Land Law. The materials also contain scenarios to illustrate the practical application of these laws. The materials were distributed to leaders and staff members of the central VWU, provincial women's unions in every province and provincial level municipality across the country, leaders and staff members of the women's unions in the project communes in the five provinces which have to date been involved in the HRTC Program, Nam Dinh, Hung Yen, Bac Ninh, Quang Binh and Vinh Long.

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
			Production of these materials has enhanced the capacity the VWU and its local operatives to raise awareness of women's rights and gender equality issues among women and families. The activity has given local women's union officials further resources to provide training and engage effectively with women and other relevant stakeholders at the commune level. Through the direct provision of resource materials to households in the target communes, this activity has also assisted woman in those communes become better informed about their legal rights, and thus better equipped to protect and promote their rights, through seeking out available service, complaint processes and other legal avenues.
Human Rights Treaties Seminar	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provincial people's committees, provincial people's procuracies, justice departments, external affairs departments, public security departments, ethnic minority departments and other agencies.	January 2010	Capacity building for officials from five provinces in the northern part of Vietnam: Lao Cai, Dien Bien, Ha Giang, Lai Chau, Son La and Yen Bai. 44 officials received training on implementation of their responsibilities relevant to Vietnam's compliance with international human rights treaties including ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, CRC.
Human Rights Treaties Seminar	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provincial people's committees, provincial people's procuracies, justice departments, external affairs departments, public security departments, ethnic minority departments and other agencies.	February 2010	Capacity building for officials from five provinces and one municipality in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam: Can Tho, An Giang, Ben Tre, Soc Trang, Tien Giang and Tra Vinh. 47 officials received training on implementation of their responsibilities relevant to Vietnam's compliance with international human rights treaties.
Legal Dissemination Training for Socio-Political Organisations	Ministry of Justice	March 2010	Training provided to 106 legal advisers from socio-political organisations in the provinces of Ba Ria, Binh Thuan and Dong Nai. 'Socio-political organisations are mass organisations such as the Vietnam Women's Union, the Farmers' Union and the Vietnam Youth Union. These organisations, because of their very large memberships and sprawling grassroots networks, are in an excellent position to provide legal aid services and community legal education to people in local communities. Advisers gained a better understanding of Vietnamese laws enabling citizens to lodge 'complaints and denunciations', laws providing for democracy at local level, and laws regulating the settlement of land disputes.

Activity	Agencies	Date Implemented	Capacity-Building and other Impacts
Legal Aid and Advocacy Study Visit	Vietnam Lawyers' Association (VLA)	March 2010	10 officials introduced to the Australian experience in the provision of legal aid and advocacy for disadvantage citizens. This training was designed to contribute to VLA's efforts to strengthen its own legal aid and advocacy programs, with a view to protecting and promoting the human rights of Vietnamese citizens. The VLA delegation stated that that they found that Australia's legal aid support programs for the homeless, young people and Indigenous Australians were very relevant to the development of similar programs in Vietnam.
Seminar on Human Rights Protection in Criminal Justice, Northern Region	Supreme People's Prosecution (SPP) Service, Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security and the Supreme People's Court.	March 2010	Training was provided to 70 officials from SPP and other agencies in northern Vietnam on applying human rights principles in the criminal justice system, including the rights to a fair trial. The current review of Vietnam's <i>Criminal Procedure Code</i> represents an avenue for the information gained from this activity to feed into ongoing reforms and produce sustainable outcomes. The seminar was very focused on the review, and ways in which the Code could be amended in order to enhance human rights protections.
Seminar on Human Rights Protection in Criminal Justice, Southern Region	Supreme People's Prosecution Service, Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security and the Supreme People's Court.	March 2010	Training provided to 40 officials from SPP and other agencies in southern Vietnam on applying human rights principles in the criminal justice system, including the rights to a fair trial. The current review of Vietnam's <i>Criminal Procedure Code</i> represents an avenue for the information gained from this activity to feed into ongoing reforms and produce sustainable outcomes. The seminar focused on the review and on ways in which the Code could be amended in order to enhance human rights protections.
Women's Legal Aid Study Visit	Vietnam Women's Union (VWU)	April 2010	10 officials gained new information and knowledge about Australian models and approaches to the delivery of legal aid services to disadvantaged women. Particular focus was given to gender specific services for women and children in areas such as domestic violence, family law, discrimination and trafficking. The information shared during this visit will inform the VWU's efforts to establish legal aid services for women in their offices in Hanoi and locations in the five provinces engaged to date under the HRTC program: Nam Dinh, Hung Yen, Bac Ninh, Quang Binh and Vinh Long.
Technical Cooperation Identification Study Visit	Ministry of Public Security (MPS)	May 2010	As their initial activity in the program, the focus was on establishing relationships between MPS and Australian agencies and on scoping out possible areas for more in-depth cooperation activities in the future. In addition, the increased knowledge and capacity gained from this study visit may assist MPS's current work program and

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			reform agenda. Through enhancing its own human rights knowledge and skills, the MPS may be better placed to promote transparency and accountability of the criminal justice and penitentiary systems, and support the Vietnamese Government in its ratification and implementation of the <i>Convention Against Torture</i> .
Women's Rights Conference	Vietnam Women's Union, Ministry of Justice's Legal Aid Department, Ministry of Public Security, Supreme People's Prosecution Service, Supreme People's Court, Vietnam Lawyers' Association, Hanoi National University.	June 2010	65 officials from the VWU and other key agencies were provided with information and knowledge to assist their work in protecting and promoting women's rights. The conference allowed women's union officials from five provinces (Nam Dinh, Hung Yen, Bac Ninh, Quang Binh and Vinh Long) to learn about best practice in programs and services for women in local communities. The activity facilitated networking between women's unions and related agencies to facilitate closer collaboration and more holistic legal services for women in local communities. The conference produced a number of recommendations on a range of initiatives including changes to law and policies and establishment of new support services for women.
Legal Dissemination Training for Socio-Political Organisations	Ministry of Justice	July 2010	This activity provided training to 107 legal advisers from socio-political organisations in the provinces of Nghe An, Thanh Hoa and Ha Tinh on training and educating citizens and communities about their rights and responsibilities under Vietnamese law. Participants gained better understanding of Vietnamese laws enabling citizens to lodge 'complaints and denunciations', laws providing for democracy at local level, and laws regulating settlement of land disputes.
Legal Dissemination Training for Ethnic Minorities	Ministry of Justice	August 2010	This activity provided training for 99 village leaders in ethnic minority communities and local justice officials, in the provinces of Dac Lac, Dak Nong, and Lam Dong on awareness raising about rights and responsibilities under Vietnamese law. In addition, the training addressed skills and methodologies needed in order to conduct effective education and information programs at grass roots level.
United Nations Human Rights Manual Translation	Supreme People's Court	October 2010	This activity produced an information resource to assist judges and other officials to apply human rights principles in the administration of justice. This activity involved translation of selected chapters from the United Nations publication <i>Human Rights in the Administration of Justice: A Manual on Human Rights for Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers</i> . 1000 copies were published, to be distributed to key stakeholders including courts, legal education bodies, research institutions and other relevant state agencies.
Seminar on Access to Justice, Northern Region	Supreme People's Court	October 2010	This activity provided training for approximately 30 judges and court officials from provinces in northern Vietnam on ensuring access to justice for vulnerable citizens in judicial processes, with particular emphasis on ethnic minorities and people with

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			disabilities. The seminar examined a wide range of measures including court support services, interpreters, and culturally and linguistically accessible court information. Some of the protections canvassed at the seminar may feed into the reform of the <i>Criminal Procedure Code</i> which is currently taking place.
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Establishment of Women's Legal Clubs		October 2010	This activity supported the establishment of 18 'women's legal clubs' in three target provinces: Bac Ninh, Quang Binh, and Vinh Long. These clubs will have the role of disseminating information on women's human rights and women's rights under Vietnamese law and providing legal advice and consultation to women and advocacy for women's rights in the local community. Assistance included training for 90 officials (staff and board members of the clubs) and provision of resource materials.
Legal Dissemination Training for Ethnic Minorities	Ministry of Justice	November 2010	Training provided to 107 village leaders in ethnic minority communities and local justice officials, in the provinces of Dien Bien, Lai Chau and Son La on awareness raising for members of local communities about their rights and responsibilities under Vietnamese law. The training covered substantive knowledge about Vietnamese laws affecting rights and responsibilities of citizens. In addition, the training addressed skills and methodologies needed in order to conduct effective education and information programs at grass roots level.
December 2010	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)	December 2010	This activity allowed MOFA's to purchase 23 publications for its human rights library. This will assist MOFA in its role as a key agency responsible for human rights treaty compliance and reporting, through strengthening its human rights information base.
Study Visit on Mechanisms for Human Rights Protection	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	December 2010	6 officials learnt about the institutional mechanisms in Australia for protecting human rights, including government agencies, independent statutory bodies, non-government organisations, and national human rights institutions. This supports MOFA's work on developing proposals and exploring models for possible establishment of human rights monitoring bodies in Vietnam.
Women's Rights	Vietnam Women's Union	December	Publication of a series of women's rights legal bulletins, in three editions over a period

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Legal Bulletins		2010	<p>of approximately 7 months, concluding in December 2010. Following their publication, these materials were distributed very widely. Copies were provided to households and local women’s unions in 30 communes in the provinces being targeted by the VWU under the HRTC: Bac Ninh, Hung Yen, Nam Dinh, Quang Binh and Vinh Long. In addition, copies of the legal bulletin were distributed to 600 districts and 11,000 communes across all 63 provinces of Vietnam. The legal bulletins produced in this activity have enhanced the capacity the VWU and its local operatives to raise awareness of women’s rights and gender equality issues among women and families.</p> <p>Through the direct provision of resource materials to households in the target communes, this activity has assisted woman in those communes become better informed about their legal rights, and thus better equipped to protect and promote their rights. The bulletins covered a variety of issues relevant to women’s rights, including key provisions under Vietnamese laws governing marriage and family issues and also the criminal law. The bulletins included information on some new laws promulgated at the most recent session of Vietnam’s National Assembly. Much of the information was presented in a practical and user-friendly ‘question and answer’ format.</p>