



**Congratulations to Vietnam alumnae VO THI HOANG YEN (Cohort 2001)**  
being named

**Winner of the Annual Kazuo Itoga Memorial Prize**

**for her outstanding work in developing resource to enable persons with disabilities in Vietnam to fully participate in society and promote their equal opportunities.**

The Kazuo Itoga Memorial Prize was named after the late Mr. Kazuo Itoga who tirelessly devoted himself to improve the welfare of the disabled, and promote respect for their human rights.

The Kazuo Itoga Memorial Foundation was established in 1997 in Japan to carry on Mr. Itoga's legacy, aiming at building an integrated society that ensures the well-beings of the disabled and their families. With this view, the Prize is awarded each year to individuals who have contributed outstanding services toward the promotion of welfare for the disabled.

The award ceremony will be held at Piazza Hall (Shiga Prefectural Citizens Exchange Center)  
Konan City, Shiga  
, Japan, on November 19, 2009.

Vo Thi Hoang Yen, who is a polio survivor, completed her Master degree in Human Development at the University of Kansas (2002 – 2004). After her return to Vietnam, Yen

established her own organization, **Disability Resource and Development (DRD)** ). [www.drdvietnam.com](http://www.drdvietnam.com)

DRD's mission

**is to promote full participation of, and equal opportunities for, people with disabilities (PWDs) in all spheres of society**

**Goals of DRD**

- Enhancing the disability - equality awareness of society members and PWDs themselves.
- Building capacity for PWDs and groups/organizations of PWDs.
- Paving the way for the development of the training course on Social Work with PWDs at Ho Chi Minh City Open University

**Activities at DRD include:** [Disability Resource Library](#)

. Resources about disabilities, health information, personal stories of PWD's and journals from across the world!

- [Peer counseling](#) . Peer counselors facilitate discussion amongst PWDs about concerns, struggles, and successes in life.

- [Employment services](#), including job placement and advice for employers of PWDs.
- [Training and Workshops](#) in job skills, life-skills, leadership and fundraising to encourage ownership.
- The [Hearing Impairment Club](#) provides sign language and English classes and a support group.
- The [women with a disability](#) group meets monthly.
- DRD provides many

opportunities to volunteer.

- DRD is networking disability NGOs in the south of Vietnam

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Picture above : Vo  
Thi Hoang Yen

speaking at an event  
launching the  
Mentoring Program  
of her organization

Disability Resource  
and Development  
(DRD) Vietnam, in

# Ho Chi Minh City in April 2008





Vo Thi Hoang Yen  
singing the  
aspiration to give  
back to the  
community at a  
“Live for the  
Communities” event  
held in Ho Chi Minh  
City in May 2006