

Exceptional Individual Focuses Spotlight On Structural Moving

Do Quoc Khanh



In January 2008 the IASM office in Lexington, SC received a Member Application Form from **Do Quoc Khanh, Owner/Director, Vietnam Disposing Settle Foundation Co., Ltd (Vina-DFS) of Hanoi, Vietnam**. The package containing the application had been mailed from Mr. Khanh's son, Do Quoc Viet, who is a researcher for the Science and Technology Center of France.

In a letter to Mr. Khanh, acknowledging his membership and welcoming his company as a member, he was invited to proffer information and photographs of some of his company's work. Being the only member in Vietnam it was felt fellow structural mover members would be interested. Shortly thereafter the association received an email containing photographs and a description of a record setting job completed in January 2008. A problem existed. The photos could not be opened.

Follow-up to elicit additional information proved to be extremely interesting. Early attempts to reach the new member proved difficult since emails were returned as undeliverable. Phone calls to a cell number always rang busy, leaving the impression the number was wrong or not all numerals had been provided. Phone calls to the office number supplied rang and rang and rang with no answer and no automatic answering machine where a message could be left. Email responses to Vietnam received automatic replies in Vietnamese. Local Lexington business representatives from Vietnam could not translate email replies. When a final call to the company's business phone rolled over to a facsimile machine, another plan materialized.

This editor participates in a Bible Study each Sunday in which the teacher, Dr. Alex Luc, is a professor at a local university. The professor was born in South Vietnam. He agreed to translate. The exercise was successful. Immediately upon sending a facsimile an email arrived providing new contact information. Questions were posed to Khanh and answers were provided in short order. What was so remarkable was this editor does not speak Vietnamese and Do Quoc Khanh does not speak English. Enters

Do Thu Nga, Mr. Khanh's daughter, a third year student of Foreign Trade University in Hanoi, serving as translator.

When asked his reason for becoming a member of IASM Khanh responded: "In Vietnam, with no modern devices, no guide books and no resources, structural movers have to teach themselves the methods of moving houses. It proves that people can do everything with a strong will. But, it also reflects the fact that the structural moving technology in Vietnam is still unprofessional. I decided to join IASM because I want to exchange experiences with fellow members. As a member of IASM I have a good chance to learn about the most modern technology. It will make my structural moving technology become really professional. I can't speak English (all of the emails have been translated by my daughter [Do Thu Nga] but I'm going to attend the 2009 annual conference [in Virginia Beach, VA]."

The following information was gleaned from a report by Truong Son which was published in the January 16, 2008 Thanh Nien News.

A circuitous route

It all began in 1973. Khanh was the top high school graduate of Minh Khai School in Tu Liem, Hanoi and was sent to Czechoslovakia to study internal mechanics. Five years into studies, he realized....

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