



The comical 'Miss Environment' beauty contest amusing the audience at the Kinh Bac cultural center



German & Vietnamese football players struggling for the ball in the Dai Phuc stadium, Bac Ninh city

Component: TC Component 2 -
Capacity Development
Wastewater Management
Perspective: Community Awareness
Activity: German-Vietnamese Day
in Bac Ninh City
Location and date: Bac Ninh,
April 15 2010

On April 15, 2010 Mr. Bui Vinh Kien, Vice-Chairman of the Bac Ninh Provincial People's Committee, Mrs. Birgit Wendling, Development Counsellor of the German Embassy to Viet Nam, as well as Mr. Dinh Quang Hiep, chairman of the Bac Ninh Water Supply and Sewerage Ltd. Company (WSSC), jointly opened the German-Vietnamese Day in Bac Ninh city that was organized under the overall control of TC Component 2 of the 'Wastewater and Solid Waste Management in Provincial Centers' program (WMP) in close cooperation with the Bac Ninh WSSC and several other related institutions. As an activity in the framework of the Germany in Viet Nam Year 2010, this event in Bac Ninh is only the first in a series of five German-Vietnamese Days being coordinated by the Component throughout the year. Future events will take place in the partner cities of Hai Duong, Can Tho, Soc Trang and Tra Vinh.

Besides serving the purpose to celebrate bilateral relations and present Germany at other locations than the metropolises of Hanoi and

Ho Chi Minh City, the "German-Vietnamese Days" also aim at raising public awareness of the program's contents related to environmental consciousness, water-borne diseases and other wastewater related issues.

Integrated in the Bac Ninh Festival 2010 on the occasion of the recognition of the traditional Quan họ folk songs of Bac Ninh province as a UNESCO world cultural heritage, the German-Vietnamese Day commenced in the Kinh Bac Cultural Center with a colorful stage program comprising quan họ folk songs and dances performed by the Bac Ninh Women's Union, a 'Miss Environment' beauty contest presented by an amateur theater group, a wastewater puzzle competition as well as German folk songs performed by Vietnamese pupils of Bac Ninh city. A German food cooking competition organized in the nearby food corner of the premises draw the attention of all guests and pampered not only the German jury's but also the interested bystanders' senses of taste.

The WMP as well as other German institutions, agencies and companies active in Vietnam presented themselves with a manifold mixture of exhibitions, posters and give-aways at a joint information stand in the center of the Festival's trade fair throughout the day. Supported by the WMP and in the framework of the program's customer relation management consultancy, the Bac Ninh WSSC used the event to present itself in a separate stand and provide free services to its customers.

In the afternoon, the Bac Ninh WSSC invited all 200 guests to an open day at the water plant of Bac Ninh city. Finally, a friendly football match between an international amateur team from Hanoi and the Bac Ninh WSSC ended in a 3:3 draw rounding off the celebrations. All participants took pleasure in the event and will surely remember it as a happy and joyful day fostering friendship and diplomatic relations between the two countries. The next German-Vietnamese Day of this kind will be celebrated in Hai Duong city on June 3, 2010.