Thông Cáo Báo Chí

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Signify and UNESCO collaborate to provide access to education to ethnic minorities in Viet Nam

- Solar lighting systems were provided to more than 5,000 students of 16 lower secondary schools in Ha Giang, Ninh Thuan and Soc Trang provinces.
- Signify also donated a book library at the Minh Tan school.

Ho Chi Minh City - Signify (Euronext: LIGHT), formerly Philips Lighting, the world leader in lighting, collaborates with UNESCO – the mandated United Nations agency for education – and Departments of Education and Training of the three provinces of Ha Giang, Ninh Thuan and Soc Trang in Viet Nam to provide access to education to ethnic minorities through the **"Lighting up the Future of Ethnic Minority Communities in Viet Nam"** Project with the goal to reduce school drop-out rates.

Funded by Signify Foundation, the project aims to equip more than 5,000 ethnic minority students of 16 lower secondary schools in remote, mountainous and disadvantaged areas in Ha Giang, Ninh Thuan and Soc Trang with innovative lighting equipment. To address the challenge of inadequste grid connectivity, the lighting being provided are solar based LED indoor and outdoor systems including 1,900 Philips LifeLight portable solar lanterns, 7 Philips SunStay streetlights for school-yard lighting and other LED lamps.

In many remote and mountainous areas of Vietnam where there is a high concentration of ethnic minority communities, people are still facing many difficulties and challenges in their daily lives, especially poor conditions of traffic infrastructure and electricity grids. In these areas, limited access to electricity has not only affected the performance of farming activities and economic development among the communities, but also challenged all aspects of people's livings, movement and exchanging activities at night. In particular, limited access to electrical lighting systems has significantly prevented local students from accessing education, resulting in a higher rate of school drop-outs in general.

Installation at the 16 schools has now been completed. On June 17, 2020, Minh Tan secondary semi-boarding school for ethnic minority students at Vi Xuyen District, Ha Giang Province, on behalf of the eight lower secondary boarding schools for ethnic minority students in the province, held a ceremony to celebrate receiving the solar lighting equipment. At Minh Tan school, in addition to lighting equipment, Signify also donated a book library of 500 books to support the students' daily learning activities.

This project reflects Signify's commitment to use our expertise and knowledge of lighting to give back to the communities in which we operate. Also, it reflects the commitment of UNESCO to support the Government of Viet Nam to build an inclusive, equitable and quality education system.

"The education sector of Ha Giang or any provinces with ethnic minorities in Viet Nam is always facing challenges: apart from ensuring education and training quality, we have to take care of the students' lives, especially the ones from semi-boarding schools. We have to advocate with parents to send their children to schools and motivate the students not to drop out. Such assistance to the education sector by UNESCO and Signify not only encourages our passion to strengthen the education and training, but also enables students with difficulties to better access to educational opportunities, to enjoy and stay longer at school," said Mr. Nguyen The Binh, Director of Education and Training Department of Ha Giang Province, on behalf of the all three participating provinces.

"This Project falls within our wider effort to enhance the quality of education for ethnic minority students," said Mr. Michael Croft, UNESCO Representative to Viet Nam. "And because we share with Signify a common concern for sustainability and leaving no one behind, we join hands in this way. It is so easy for many of us to take for granted, but having more light translates to more opportunities in the future for these deserving youth."

"With our mission to enable access to the benefits of sustainable lighting solutions to underserved communities, we recognize the challenges of living without access to electric lighting inremote and mountainous areas. With these advanced solar lighting solutions and technologies, students will have better facilities for their daily activities and learning, therefore, will learn better and be more motivated to go to schools to build up their knowledge and nurture their dreams for a brighter future. This is exactly our approach to unlock the extraordinary potential of light for brighter lives and a better world," said Mr. Phung Hoai Duong, General Director of Signify Viet Nam.

Aiming to improve people's lives with meaningful innovations, Signify has for many years implemented CSR projects to bring solar lighting systems to off-grid communities specifically in Africa and Southeast Asia. In 2014, the company successfully completed a large-scale CSR project to equip solar lighting systems in Thanh Son village, Ha Nam Province. Through this project, living conditions for approximately 300 poor households in the area have been significantly improved.

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About UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is a specialized international agency that was founded in 1945, with activities within the fields of education, social and natural science, culture and communication and information. Among its 50 field offices operating around the world, the UNESCO Office in Ha Noi coordinates international cooperation in the Organization's key strategic action areas (education, sciences, culture, communication and information). UNESCO Ha Noi has supported the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam since 1999, starting with the Education and Culture sectors and now expanding to contribute comprehensive assistance to the country in all action areas.
Focal initiatives include:

Learning for the Future
Science for Sustainability
Placing Culture at the Heart of Development
Informing Social Development through Media

More information about UNESCO could be found at:
https://en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/hanoi/about

About Signify

Signify (LIGHT.NX) is the world leader in lighting for professionals and consumers and lighting for the Internet of Things. Our Philips products, Interact connected lighting systems and data-enabled services, deliver business value and transform life in homes, buildings and public spaces. With 2019 sales of EUR 6.2 billion, we have approximately 38,000 employees and are present in over 70 countries. We unlock the extraordinary potential of light for brighter lives and a better world. We have been named Industry Leader in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for two years

in a row. News from Signify is located at the Newsroom, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram. Information for investors can be found on the Investor Relations page.

More information about solar products and solutions*:*

Philips LifeLight

A portable solar lighting system which is very useful for people in areas with limited access to electricity grids. The system includes a solar panel, a $LiFePO_4$ battery, and a three meter cable from solar panel to charge the solar lantern. The lantern includes a white light 110 lumen lamp with 3 lighting settings and a USB port for phone charging. Operating time is from 5 to 20 hours depending on the selected light output level. The lantern can be used in various applications, such as up right, hanging upside down or portable and in rain with water protection cap.

Philips SunStay

An all-in-one solar street light that combines solar panels, LED circuit board and intelligent sensors. Solar charge controller uses the innovative MPPT algorithm to enable the panel to effectively absorb solar energy for maximum efficiency and longer operating time. With the “all-in-one” design, brightness up to 4,500 lumen and luminous efficacy reaching 175 lm/W, this lighting solution has been applied in various lighting projects for community development, smart city, industry, residential areas…