

## The Sky Is the Limit



By  
Trần Thị  
Huong

"The Sky is the Limit" was the theme of last month's annual celebration in honour of *Vietnam National Day for the Care and Protection of Disabled People*. The event, organised by Disability Resource and Development and the HCMC Youth Union, took place at Cong Nhan Theatre in Ho Chi Minh City.

The show opened with an impressive lineup of speakers representing the community of people living with disabilities, beginning with Ms Huong Duong who lost two legs in an accident. She gained fame for her tremendous contributions to the founding and development of a national audio library for the blind. Ms Nguyen Thi Hoa, a sign language teacher, translated for the hearing impaired guests, her hands dancing along in harmony with the spoken words.

### AN IMPRESSIVE SHOW

Singers representing the Youth Union entertained audience members with a southern folk song called *Ly Dat Giong*, while two vision-impaired young men performed *cai luong* by imitating the sounds of traditional instruments. The sweet voice of Ms Thuy Tien accompanied Xuan Vinh's one-handed guitar and harmonica performance of a popular song by Trinh Cong Son.

The evening's entertainment also included an environmental fashion show by mentally-disabled children, a hip-hop performance by young men with physical disabilities and


a martial arts demonstration by one-legged instructor Ta Anh Dung, who managed to fight off two able bodied men attacking him with wooden sticks.

Details for the event were carefully planned, from the backdrop depicting the night's sky, full of bright and sparkling stars, to the entertainers, each performing with energy, confidence and grace. It was obvious that much practice and preparation went into the event to ensure that the message was clear - *The Sky is the Limit*. People living with disabilities can reach the stars, and many of them did.

### DISABLED IS JUST A WORD

Participants in the evening's performance represent only a fraction of the population of people living with disabilities in Vietnam, a larger group that silently struggles to overcome certain limitations in order to live, learn and provide for themselves and, sometimes, even, for others.

In addition to overcoming their disabilities and their feelings about their own situation, they must often deal with discrimination. The show sought to show people, both those with disabilities as much as those without, that one must look beyond limitations and look instead towards possibilities.

Huong supports *not-for-profits and companies that engage in charitable giving in Vietnam*. She can be reached by email at [huongt72@yahoo.com](mailto:huongt72@yahoo.com). 

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## business groups

### AmCham

New World Hotel, 76 Le Lai, Q1  
Tel: 3824 3562 [www.amchamvietnam.com](http://www.amchamvietnam.com)  
An independent association of American and international businesses, the objective of the American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam is to promote trade and investment between the United States and Vietnam.

### AusCham

18 Thai Van Lung, Q1  
Tel: 3911 0272 [www.auschamvn.org](http://www.auschamvn.org)  
An organisation bringing together Australian companies and individuals doing business in Vietnam, the Australian Chamber of Commerce offers advice on doing business. Also offers networking opportunities and social events, including the yearly Auscham Ball.

### British Business Group of Vietnam

25 Le Duan, Q1  
Tel: 3829 8430 [www.bbgv.org](http://www.bbgv.org)  
The first foreign business group to set up in Vietnam, BBGV's goal is to both promote the interests of its members as well as the more general interests of British business. Organises business luncheons and seminars as well as regular social and networking events.

### CanCham

Room 305, New World Hotel, 76 Le Lai, Q1  
Tel: 3824 3754 [www.canchamvietnam.org](http://www.canchamvietnam.org)  
Open to all nationalities, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce aims to provide an effective network of business associates together with discussion forums about doing business in Vietnam. Offers an array of seminars as well as social and networking events.

### Eurocham

EuroCenter, 5th Floor, 49 Mac Dinh Chi, Q1  
Tel: 3827 2715 [www.eurochamvn.org](http://www.eurochamvn.org)  
A confederate organisation with strong ties to national business associations in its member countries, Eurocham looks after and provides advice and support for the business interests of European Union members in Vietnam.

### NordCham

12A Floor, Bifexo Building, 19-25 Nguyen Hue, Q1 Tel: 3821 5423 [www.nordcham.com](http://www.nordcham.com)  
Provides support to Nordic companies and individuals operating in Vietnam. A business and social network, members have the opportunity to meet, discuss, interact and share expertise and experience.

### Singapore Business Group

1st Floor, Vietphone Building, 64 Nguyen Dinh Chieu, Q1 Tel: 0938 233046  
A group with over 300 members who meet regularly to foster business relations with others in the community, as well as taking part in social, cultural, recreational, educational and charitable activities. Hosts regular networking functions and special events. Membership is US\$10 per month and allows you access to a wide range of discounts around town.

## dry cleaning & laundry

### Cosmo Laundry & Green Dry Cleaning

80 Nguyen Khoai, Q4  
Tel: 6261 6868  
[info@cosmolundry.com](mailto:info@cosmolundry.com)  
A pick-up and delivery laundry service that uses environmentally-friendly detergents and washing processes. They allow the convenience of placing orders by phone, fax, email or through the website. They charge per item and prices start at VND9,800. Delivery within

Districts 1, 3, 4, 7 and Phu Nhuan is free for bill values of VND150,000 and up.

## event management

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46D Vuon Lai, Tan Phu Tel: 3812 6901  
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Offers everything from canapés and cocktails, buffets and set menus to barbecues and wedding catering. Combines excellent food, event management and exclusive venues to provide the ideal solution for any kind of event.

## housing & real estate

### Apartment4VIP

[www.apartment4VIP.com](http://www.apartment4VIP.com)  
Apartment4VIP is a real estate company that specialises in placing expats in international standard apartments all over Ho Chi Minh City. Need an apartment? Give them a call or visit the website to find out what's available.

### CBRE

Unit 1301, Me Linh Point Tower, 2 Ngo Duc Ke, Q1 Tel: 3823 6125

[www.cbre.com](http://www.cbre.com)  
Property developers and consultants with both private and commercial properties for sale, lease and rent. Issues a monthly newsletter with the latest property news. Also does research and management services.

### Centre Point

106 Nguyen Van Troi, Phu Nhuan  
Tel: 3823 9205

[www.centrepoin.com.vn](http://www.centrepoin.com.vn)  
Expected to be completed in 2009, Centre Point is the city's first, truly green office block. Contains 27,000sqm of office and 2,000sqm of retail space over 17 storeys. Leasing opportunities now available.

### Chamber Property Consultancy

92 Nguyen Cuu Van, Binh Thanh  
[www.chamberproperty.com](http://www.chamberproperty.com)  
Chamber Property Consultancy has more than 100 houses and flats available for rent in Saigon. Contact them today on 0935312861 or fill in a request form on their website.

### Met Vuong

137 De Tham, Q1  
Tel: 3920 7896 [www.metvuong.com](http://www.metvuong.com)  
An online real estate marketplace, Met Vuong is a one-stop shop for renters, buyers and owners. Offering everything from leases of basic flats to serviced apartments and luxury villas, the website allows you to conduct all your business online.

### Platinum 1

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Tel: 0908 078995 [www.platinum1corp.com](http://www.platinum1corp.com)  
This American-based company provides a range of comprehensive real estate services. Known for its efficient and dependable service, it has global connections and expertise in the Vietnam real estate market.

### Snap

[www.snap.com.vn](http://www.snap.com.vn)  
A simple, web-based real estate search service. Provides information on rental properties all around the city with full listings available online.

### Sotheby's International Realty

Capital Place, Level 6, Thai Van Lung, Q1  
Tel: 3520 2000  
[www.sothebysrealty.com.vn](http://www.sothebysrealty.com.vn)  
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