

PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam's 63 provinces take action to protect children on the roads

27 April, 2015—Hanoi, Vietnam

In response to the Third UN Global Road Safety Week themed “Children and road safety,” the National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC) has launched a national Plan advocating for strengthened road safety with a special focus on children. At today’s launch in Hanoi, NTSC announced the Plan, No. 142/KH-UBATGTQG, on organizing a Road Safety Week for the Third UN Global Road Safety Week. The Plan is also supported by World Health Organization (WHO) and AIP Foundation.

The event was attended by Vice Chairman of NTSC and representatives from Ministry of Education and Training, WHO, Global Road Safety Partnership, UNICEF, AIP Foundation, Ministry of Transport, Traffic Police Department of Ministry of Public Security, Hanoi Department of Education and Training, Ministry of Health, Vietnam Women Association, related government offices and Embassies, all strongly supporting road safety.

Road crashes are a serious threat to children’s lives. According to WHO, globally, one child pass away every four minutes from a road crash and hundreds of others are injured. Each year, 186,300 children die from road crashes, including 2,000 in Vietnam.

Plan No. 142/KH-UBATGTQG will be implemented nationwide from May 4 to May 10, 2015 supporting UN Global Road Safety Week and will concentrate on social public awareness of main causes of road crash fatalities and head trauma of children in Vietnam. The Plan seeks to raise awareness of the responsibility to protect children on the roads.

As part of the Plan, Provinces across Vietnam will pay special attention to the WHO’s recommendations for keeping children safe on the roads. These include:

- The regulation of child helmet use on motorcycles, e-motorcycles, and e-bicycles
- Pedestrian safety rules for children
- Bicycling safety rules for children
- Traffic safety law obedience and traffic safety driving rules

In preparation for Global Road Safety Week, children around the world collaborated to create a [Child Declaration for Road Safety](#). This Declaration highlights the plight children face on the world’s roads and calls on leaders to take action by stating what they need in order to be safe. At the launch, thousands of signatures from students, teachers, and school representatives across 63 Provinces supporting the Child Declaration for Road Safety were delivered to key road safety leaders in attendance. These leaders committed to action by signing the Declaration at the event.

“The Ministry of Education and Training has been actively involved in facilitating student signatures of the Declaration. We will use the Declaration as a method of advocacy nationwide, reaching communities in 63 Provinces and informing them on the importance of staying safe on the roads and complying with traffic regulations,” said Mr. Ngu Duy Anh, Director of Student Affairs Department from MoET.

“This powerful act to improve children’s safety across the country can lead the way for other countries to take similar national-level responses,” said AIP Foundation President Mr. Greig Craft.

“More than 500 children are killed every day across the globe as a result of road crashes and more than 5,000 have lifetime injuries; these are a heavy pain to thousands of families and a threat to the development of the whole country. We can change this epidemic. We are committed to widely advocating for children’s safety issues on the roads and are responding to the United Nations’ call to improve global road safety during the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020,” said Dr. Khat Viet Hung, Vice Executive Chairman from NTSC.

“This Plan will lead to strengthened efforts among relevant Ministries and a wider coverage of road safety subjects. The Plan addressing pedestrian, motorcycle, bicycle, and helmet safety—all focused on keeping children safe—will enhance the traffic culture in Vietnam,” said Mr. Manu Eraly, representative from WHO.

Please click www.savekidslives2015.org to read and sign the Child Declaration for Road Safety.