

International Distribution and Supply Chain Networks Linking Vietnam and Australia



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ISS Institute/TAFE Fellowship

Fellowship funded by Skills Victoria,
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Industry and Regional Development,
Victorian Government



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Published by International Specialised Skills Institute, Melbourne.

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101/685 Burke Road
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June 2009

Also extract published on www.issinstitute.org.au

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Executive Summary

Beyond immediate shortages, Victoria's future depends on a workforce with skills in the right areas and at the right levels to meet changing industry needs and the demands of businesses operating in global market.

Securing Jobs for Your Future, 2008, Jacinta Allan, Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation

The aim of this Fellowship was to gain first hand experience of the involvement of Australian companies in Vietnam, with particular regard to logistics and supply chain opportunities upon Vietnam's entry as a member of the World Trade Organisation.

Managers of Australian companies interviewed described a business environment in which other international companies were also competing. All agreed that there were opportunities in Vietnam, but cautioned that there were also many issues which were unique to that country, as outlined in this report.

A significant trend is the increased supply chain and logistics support that Vietnam may be able to provide for southern China, from the Red River Delta region adjacent to Hanoi. This is an area of immense growth which the government is attempting to develop in a sustainable manner.

One of the rationales for this Fellowship was to address a skills gap that pertains to the importance of developing an international perspective in course curriculum and design. The need to develop this perspective is essential to both industry and students alike.

It is apparent that there is very little requirement to take an international perspective into account when assessing students under National Training Packages unit requirements, even for such an obvious candidate as the Diploma of Business (International Trade). Whilst units can be contextualised, it is usually undertaken solely on the basis of an individual companies' requirements only. Such an inward perspective may not be suitable when developing Australia's future global business leaders.

As a consequence of the Fellowship, Thomas subsequently lead a very successful study tour for International Marketing students to Ho Chi Minh City, and further presented his findings at the 'Partnerships for World Graduates Conference' held in Melbourne in November, 2007, sponsored by RMIT University.

At RMIT Business TAFE, Thomas is developing a Diploma of Logistics Management which complements global supply chains and international business. This course was further enhanced through a network of conferences, seminars and workshops lead by the Fellow in October 2008, with a particular emphasis upon sustainable supply chains.