

## **EurAsiaHeart Activities in Vietnam in 2008**

Several hospitals in HCMC were visited again this year.

There is a sustained high demand for cardiovascular treatments of congenital heart defects and post-rheumatic heart disease in Vietnam. This problem has officially been realized and is subject of reporting in the media almost daily. Several more hospitals are planned to be built at the outskirts of this fast growing city. The relatively poor know-how of the surgical teams however make optimal treatment of small children < 10kg and coronary artery disease still impossible, demonstrating, that by just constructing new buildings this major problem remains unsolved.

Aims of my visit were to have personal contacts with local cardiac surgeons and hospital authorities and to teach and perform surgery on complex cases at two hospitals.

As representative of the EAHF I took part at the signing ceremony of the cooperative contract between the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz and the PNT Medical School HCMC. This cooperation aims at coordinating both curricula for mutual acknowledgement and set the base for students exchange and research collaboration.

EAHF will be active in future years in Vietnam. Transfer of know-how will be main focus, especially for establishing programs for congenital heart defects in small children and the treatment of coronary artery disease.

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