

## **Activity Report of the EurAsiaHeart Foundation in Vietnam in 2009**

EurAsiaHeart Foundation again visited 2 hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City between November, 22nd and December, 2nd 2009 .

According to official estimates HCMC has a population of 7.2 Mio, an additional one million people come to work every day. Until 2015 the city's population is thought to grow to 10 Mio. This increase of population is a major challenge to the city development, its infrastructure and the health care system in particular. The 134 hospitals and 330 clinics in HCMC are usually completely overcrowded, up to 3 patients per bed are no exception. At present, there are 25 hospital beds and 8.1 medical doctors per 10'000 inhabitants. At the biggest city hospital, the Cho Ray Hospital thousands of patients are treated each day. This hospital with 500 beds was built in 1975 in place of the clinic for burns and funded by compensation money paid by the Japanese for the 2. World War. Meanwhile, 1000 beds are run in this hospital, although no substantial refurbishment or extension have been done. All services are overcrowded accordingly.

This problem has gained attention by the authorities for years now. The People's Committee of the city has therefore decided to increase the budget of the Health care system by 13% over the next 5 years, to build 5 more hospitals with 1000 beds each and to encourage all hospitals to seek for international collaboration and development.

My activity this year was focussed on the following points:

- a. Chair, presentations and lectures during the 9th Vietnamese-German Heart Days at the Pham Ngoc Tach (PNT) University in HCMC.
- b. Continuation of the negotiations about the construction of a cardiovascular university clinic for the PNT University as a member of the delegation
- c. Represent the EAHF at the 20year anniversary of the PNT University
- d. Represent the EAHF during the meeting with the Vice Council of the People's Committee of HCMC.
- e. Representation of the EAHF during at the reception by the German Ambassador in HCMC.
- f. Surgical activity at the Cho Ray Hospital. Introduction of the offpump coronary artery bypass technique.

In cardiovascular medicine the basic conditions have barely changed compared to recent years. There is still a big need for cardiac surgical treatments, especially for congenital heart defects and post-rheumatic valvular disease.

EAHF will be active in future years in Vietnam. Transfer of know-how remains the most important focus.

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