



**ASIA LEADERSHIP  
ROUNDTABLE**

HO CHI MINH CITY  
March 11-13, 2012

## **Leadership and Learning in Asia Pacific: Challenges for Research and Practice**

---

**Sharing the understandings about instructional leadership  
in educational practice of Viet Nam**

**NGUYEN THI NGOC Bich**

Worldwide, since 1980s, there has been much discussion regarding the effectiveness of different leadership styles in improving student performance. Instructional leadership is one of the most popular terms in creating a forward-looking and student-centered school environment, but it is not such a familiar term in Viet Nam for two major reasons: centralized planning-based management and teaching-based focus. Based on the document review, (including research evidence from Master and Doctoral Programs of Educational Management, University of Education, Viet Nam National University, Ha Noi); interviews of selected 5 principals and the author's observations and experiences of 32 years teaching and advising in Viet Nam's educational institutions, this paper will reflect: 1/ The understandings of instructional leadership in Viet Nam, 2/ The issues that surfaced, 3/ Challenges of implementing change that will lead to effectiveness of instructional leadership in Viet Nam's educational institutions, and 4/ Possible realistic strategies for Viet Nam.



The Joseph Lau Luen Hung Charitable Trust  
Asia Pacific Centre  
for Leadership and Change  
劉鑾雄慈善基金  
亞太領導與變革研究中心

**IREED**

Institute for Research on  
Educational Development