

## The EU support to the HIV/AIDS Virus Free Day



**Hai Phong – May 15<sup>th</sup> 2012.** Students from 9 secondary schools in Hai Phong Province will meet to promote positive messages amongst teenagers about the importance of knowledge about HIV transmission.

About a thousand students will come together to promote a HIV/AIDS virus free generation. They will do so by participating in games, sports tournament, a painting completion, singing, hip-hop dancing.

This event is part of a large campaign organized of the project: “The positive Living Centre”, co financed by the European Union CESVI. The main objectives of the campaign are: to mobilize young people as key members of the society in fighting against HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination; to promote Positive Living amongst teenagers; to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and gender education for protection from HIV; to connect young people in Hai Phong with the youth in Europe and Africa in one global HIV fighting movement.

Franz Jessen, Head of Delegation, underlines that: "AIDS is still one of the leading causes of death in the world. Since the beginning of the epidemic, almost 60 million people have been infected with HIV and 25 million people have died of AIDS related causes. Combating HIV/AIDS is a major objective of the European Consensus on Development. As the world's largest donor, the EU has collectively provided the majority of the significant increase in recent years of international financing earmarked for HIV/AIDS.

Since 2006, The Virus Free Generation logo created by CESVI was used for the European Virus Free Generation Campaign – a project supported by the European Union which had the objective of promoting awareness among young people of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and show that the virus can be defeated in Europe as in Africa through education, prevention and access to medical treatments.

The event will kick off at 8 am and will finish at 5 pm and will take place at Chu Van An secondary School. Guests expected from local authorities will be: District educational authorities, City Youth Union, DoLISA, District People’s Committee, District Youth Union, District Sport Center, District Women’s Union, District Culture Department, and District Children’s Centre