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## The Builders of Tomorrow Are Not Limited to Our Own Backyard

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By

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As a consultant dedicated to youth development and career planning, I recently travelled to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in my capacity as Rotary Club President to lead a workshop on workplace readiness and career planning for a group of Rotaract members. Though merely a brief engagement, it gave me profound insights and reflections on Vietnam's younger generation's perspectives regarding globalisation and future development.

This visit coincided with Ho Chi Minh City's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 'Liberation of the South and National Reunification' on 30th April. This date marks the liberation of Saigon in 1975, symbolising the end of the Vietnam War and national reunification. The city was subsequently renamed Ho Chi Minh City in honour of the northern leader Ho Chi Minh. To this day, one can still sense the collective memory of this historical period and the pride the new generation of youth feel in their nation's development. Against the backdrop of steady social reform and opening up, Vietnam's new generation is actively seeking new avenues to connect with the world.

During my exchanges with this group of Vietnamese Rotaractors, I could see their strong desire for an international perspective. They candidly expressed their hope for more opportunities to equip themselves, enabling future work in other countries to gain international experience. Recognising language proficiency as a primary requirement, they diligently study and practise English, aspiring to connect with the global community. They understand Ho Chi Minh City's rapid development and the influx of foreign enterprises, thus prioritising self-improvement to pave their way onto the international stage.

By contrast, Hong Kong university students enjoy relative advantages in both educational systems and linguistic environments. Yet many young people tend to seek stable development locally, particularly cherishing the familiar lifestyle. While some students are gradually showing interest in overseas development, hoping to explore work opportunities and life experiences in different regions, the idea of pursuing careers abroad remains out of the mainstream – perhaps reflecting traditional Chinese societal values.

This workshop prompted me to reassess young people's attitudes towards globalisation: Vietnamese youth demonstrate remarkable resilience and ambition, possessing clear future goals and a proactive drive to seize opportunities. Hong Kong students seeking to enhance their competitiveness might consider transcending local boundaries, embracing change and international development with a more open perspective. The future world requires young individuals grounded locally yet equipped with global vision. I hope that young people, whether from Vietnam or Hong Kong, will dare to explore,



pursue continuous learning, and become the future pillars driving the development of society and the world.

The future pillars of society should not remain confined within their own doorsteps. Instead, they should adopt an open attitude towards venturing out to explore and broaden their horizons.