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*Cover photo: TNU President welcomes Ambassador of Singapore to Vietnam*
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EDITORIAL

TNU TAKES A BIG LEAP FORWARD

Thai Nguyen University has exerted great effort in moving ahead and at the same time takes a big leap forward without hesitation in performing its mandates in providing quality education and training. In effect, TNU has continuously unfurled its expertise in academic service with strong determination to go beyond its vision by the year 2020 to become a leading university in Vietnam.

The academic community of TNU is proud of its accomplishments and successes and is excited about the university’s future. With certainty, Thai Nguyen University has performed its best in the development of diverse education, infrastructure and facilities development, furtherance of international collaborations, and enhancement of researches with the effort to translate the researches in ways that would improve the lives of the people in the northern mountainous region of our country.

With pleasure, I highly commend the immense contributions of the officials, faculty and staff, and students of this university who have been performing their best to elevate the status of Thai Nguyen University into a highly acclaimed institution of learning. Likewise, I appreciate the contribution of our foreign university partners in assisting TNU to provide quality education and training human resources. With this scenario, I am confident that TNU could make the difference in its effort to shape a brighter future of our students who will be tomorrow’s leaders and potential assets of our country as we cross the threshold towards socio-economic development era and global integration of Vietnam.

In this period, as we wind-up the academic year 2012-2013, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all constituent of the university. Thank you for your commitment, your talent, and enjoyment in working with us in this university.

Assoc. Prof. DANG KIM VUI, Ph.D
President
APPOINTMENT OF THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY’S NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR TERM 2011-2016

The Announcement Ceremony of the Decision of the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) regarding the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dang Van Minh as Vice President of Thai Nguyen University covering the period 2011-2016 was presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Manh Hung, Deputy Minister of MOET. The ceremony was held in the morning of 5 June 2013.

Deputy Minister of MOET, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Manh Hung, presents the Decision of Appointment to TNU’s New Vice President Dang Van Minh

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dang Van Minh handled 2 research projects at Ministry level, chief author of 5 coursebooks, and co-author of 4 other course books and monographs. He published 46 articles, supervised 03 research students (2 of whom successfully defended their dissertation), and supervised 17 MS students who successfully defended their theses. Moreover, he was awarded Certificate of Merit by the MOET and the Government in 2005 and 2009, respectively. Notably, one of his research projects was applied to real life situation. In addition, with his indefatigable supervision, one group of his students won 3 VIFOTEX prizes, he was honoured as a Distinguished Teacher in 2012.

The new Vice President Dang Van Minh is in-charge of International Affairs, International training programs, partnership programs on Information and Technology Research, and likewise he acts as overseer of some TNU member-units.
RESPONSE TO THE WORLD’S ENVIRONMENT DAY

Based on the report of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 1.3 tons of food is wasted every year, this number is equivalent to 1/3 of the world’s total food production, while the number of people dying of hunger accounts for 1/7 world’s population. This year’s message for World Environment Day is "Think – Eat – Save" aiming at reminding people to pay more attention to our environment when choosing food: to avoid wastage and to consume environment-friendly foods.

The Department of Environment Science, College of Science – Thai Nguyen University conducted a program named “In response to the World Environment Day – 5 June 2013”, which took place from 27 May - 5 June 2013. It was highlighted with various activities such as displaying banners, forming a used-paper raising team launched by the Inter-Department Youth Union branch, and hosting a ceremony in response to World Environment Day.

During the ceremony which was held on 5th June 2013, Dr. Ngo Van Gioi – Dean of Department of Environment Science delivered the opening speech and appealed for the economical use of food, refrain from wasting food, better environment-awareness and active participation in environmental protection activities. At the end of the ceremony, the delegates, the department leaders and teachers together with students committed themselves to take care of plants within the university campus.

Planting trees in response to the World Environment Day

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“HERO OF LABOR” ACCORDED TO TUAF - TNU

In recognition of the remarkable accomplishments of Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF) - Thai Nguyen University in the field of education and training, the honorable title of “Hero of Labor” in renovation period was awarded to TUAF in the morning of May 18 in a solemn ceremony.

As of 2012, the university has trained more than 27,000 engineers, more than 1,000 master and 30 doctoral degree holders, many officers have college, intermediate degree and professional skills in agriculture, forestry, natural resources and environment, of which about half of students belongs to ethnic minority groups and remote mountainous areas.

With great contributions to the extraordinary development in agricultural production and rural reform in Vietnam in general and Northern Midland and Mountainous areas in particular during the renovation period, the university was honored to receive noble emulations as First-Class Labor Medal, Third-Class Independence Medal, etc. At the ceremony, as authorized by the State President, State Vice President H.E. Nguyen Thi Doan awarded the honorable title of Hero of Labor in renovation period for teachers and students of TUAF.

During the ceremony, the State Vice President also awarded 25 scholarships (2 million VND each) to students who have excellent academic standing and discipline results. Thereafter, the planting of memorial trees at TUAF campus highlighted the occasion.
DISTANCE TRAINING CENTER - THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH EDUTOP64

The Distance Training Center – Thai Nguyen University (DTC-TNU) through Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Duy Hoan- Deputy CEO of DTC-TNU entered into cooperation agreement with EDUTOP64 Training Development and Investment Corporation (referred as EDUTOP64), represented by Mr. Hoang The Anh- Chief Executive Officer, on distance learning for bachelor programs by E-learning mode on May 09, 2013.

Representatives of DTC-TNU and EDUTOP64 sign the memorandum of agreement

Based on the cooperation agreement, the DTC-TNU will be responsible in organizing distance learning for bachelor programs by E-learning mode, approving curricular programs, testing, and granting of degrees. On the other hand, EDUTOP64 will be responsible in coordinating with the DTC-TNU on admission and consulting services, student services, technology system and learning resource serving training based on E-learning approach. Similarly, EDUTOP64 will assist DTC-TNU in finding out and linking with various institutions in the implementation of distance training program by E-learning mode.

At present, E-learning is being encouraged as an alternative learning mode by the Vietnamese Government and the Ministry of Education and Training. This e-learning mode is not only a common trend of the education system around the world, but it is also a considerable option for the future of Vietnamese education.
FIRST SPORT TOURNAMENT OF SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (SFL)

On the occasion of the 123rd Anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh's birthday (19/5/1890 – 19/5/2013), on May 5-11-12, the Union of SFL - Thai Nguyen University organized the Sport Tournament Day for its officials, staff, and students.

The event was attended by Dr. Le Hong Thang - Party Secretary, Dean of SFL, Mrs. Tran Thi Nhi – Vice Dean, leaders of functional departments, teaching staff, and a number of lecturers and students.

The schedule of the tournament were as follows: (1) May 5, 2013 - Badminton Contest for students who competed enthusiastically and attracted attention of viewers; (2) May 11, 2013 - Badminton Contest for officials and staff from different functional departments and teaching staff; (3) and, in the morning of 12 May 2013, extremely eye-catching and exciting sports events were attended by all department units and teaching staff. All athlete-participants displayed highly the spirit of solidarity.

In conclusion, the first Sport Tournament of SFL’s Union gave an extremely positive impact among athletes and spectators that was rated very successful beyond expectations.
TNU PARTICIPATES ACTIVELY TO ANTI-DRUGS ACTION MONTH- 2013

On June 16, at College of Agriculture and Forestry (CAF) – Thai Nguyen University, the Ministry of Education and Training held a Launching Ceremony in response to Anti-drugs Action Month – 2013, on the theme “For a Drug-free University” and likewise launched “People’s Day on Drug Prevention - June 26th 2013”. This activity targeted a wide-scale advocacy of the Education sector’s determination in the prevention of excessive drug consumption and addiction at schools.

The year 2013 marked the second year in the implementation of the National Target Program on Drug Prevention, covering the period 2012 – 2013. During the past few years, Thai Nguyen University and its member-units have gained many achievements and proposed a number of initiatives on drug-prevention education.

In response to Anti-drug Action Month 2013, representatives from the Office of Education in Yen Bai, Lao Cai, Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Phu Tho, Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Thai Nguyen, Bac Can, together with TNU signed a pledge of commitment indicating “Students – Say ’No’ to Drugs” during the ceremony.

Leaders from 10 provinces in the North sign a commitment on “Students – Say ‘No’ to Drugs”

During the Ceremony, students from universities and colleges located in Thai Nguyen had a parade to assert their determination in the prevention and elimination of drug consumption from social life, in order to build up a healthy and drug-free environment at schools in particular and the whole society in general.
General information
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Tel: (+84) 2803 855 564 / 2803 654 649
Fax: (+84) 2803 852 921
Email: dhnl@tnu.edu.vn
Website: www.tuaf.edu.vn

Brief information

College of Agriculture and Forestry (CAF) - as a member of Thai Nguyen University - was established in 1970.

At present, CAF has approximately 500 staffs, of which 320 are teaching staffs; 35 Professors and Associate Professors, about 100 Doctoral holders and 200 Masters. By 2015, the university hopes to push the number of doctoral holders to 40%, Professors and Associate Professors to 15%.

CAF has always successfully completed the tasks given by the State and Government. The University has also received many noble awards from the Central Party and the State such as the Third Class Labor Medal, the Second Class and the First Class Medals in 1990, 1995 and 2000 respectively; Third Class Independence Medal in 2005 and Hero of Labor in 2013.

Missions

To offer higher education in agriculture, forestry, environment, agricultural economics and rural development in the Northern mountainous region of Vietnam.

To conduct researches and transfer technologies in the fields of agriculture and forestry in order to contribute socio-economic development in the region.

International Cooperation

International cooperation plays an important role in the University development. CAF has cooperation in training and research with more than 62 organizations including Universities, Institutions from different countries over the world such as US, Germany, Australia, Great Britain, Japan, Korea ...

Currently CAF has 110 lecturers or staffs holding PhD or Master degree conferred by Foreign Universities around the world. Yearly, CAF has sent 150 students joining education exchange. In 2013, CAF has implemented 14 researches and projects joint with international partners.
## ACADEMIC TRAINING PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Training majors</th>
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| Faculty of Natural Resources and Environment | - Land Management (BSc., MSc., Ph.D)  
- Environment science (BSc., MSc., Ph.D)  
- Environment science and management (BSc.)  
- Environment and land management (BSc.)  
  Advanced Education Program (AEP): Programs in Environment Science and Management has been imported from University of California at Davis (UC Davis). |
| Faculty of Biotechnology and food technology | - Post-harvest Technology, Food Technology, Biotechnology (BSc.) |
| Faculty of Agronomy                | - Crop Science (BSc., MSc., Ph.D) |
| Faculty of Forestry                | - Silviculture (BSc., MSc., Ph.D)  
- Agroforestry, Forest protection and management, Wood processing technology (BSc.) |
| Faculty of Agricultural Pedagogy   | - Agricultural pedagogy (BSc.) |
| Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine | - Animal science (MSc., Ph.D)  
- Animal nutrition, Veterinary parasite, Veterinary microorganism (Ph.D)  
- Veterinary medicine (BSc., MSc.)  
- Animal science and Veterinary medicine (BSc.)  
- Aquaculture (BSc.) |
| Faculty of Economics and Rural Development | - Rural development (BSc., MSc.)  
- Agricultural extension, Agricultural economics, Agricultural engineering (BSc.) |
| Faculty of Basic Sciences          | Providing all basic science subjects, research, and innovation to create an enriching academic experience that prepares students for rewarding careers in different majors. |
| Graduate School                   | Graduate education at TUAF has been a partnership program among faculties, students and campus leaders to ensure the highest quality of graduate courses. |
| International Training Center     | - English (major in Language and literature) (Ph.D)  
- Business Administration (BSc., MSc., Ph.D)  
- Vietnamese language (BSc., MSc.)  
- Educational management (MSc., Ph.D.)  
- Science and environmental science (BSc.)  
- Teaching English (BSc.)  
  (All courses are conducted in English) |
TNU’S FIRST YOUNG SCIENTIST CONFERENCE - 2013

The Ho Chi Minh Youth Union of Thai Nguyen University (TNU) sponsored the 1st Young Scientists Conference which was held on 15th June 2013.

Conducting research is a very important task, which must always be paralleled with training activities in every higher education institution, because it not only contributes to improving the training quality, but also brings about new inventions and products which are of great advantage in people’s life. Any training institution wishing to find new knowledge and be updated on new technology know-how in the context of intensive and extensive integration has to continuously conduct researches, and scientific innovations as a guarantee in achieving quality training.

In the speech delivered by Mr. Nguyen Huu Cong – TNU Vice President, he stated with contentment that research activities during the past few years have been given considerable attention in the whole university. The university lecturers and students have been continuously developing a number of quality researches. Based on records, from 2007 – 2012, 3,136 research topics have been carried out by 5,040 students. The topics were focused on various fields, many of which have been developed in the graduate program theses. Thereby, students have the chance to practice their research skills and apply their knowledge to real life, contributing to training quality improvement. In fact, the researches conducted by students have shown significant results.
The conference topics were composed of 32 research agenda, categorized into 6 groups: science and technology, natural science, agricultural science, medicine, social studies and humanities, and economic studies.

During the awarding of winners, A-prize was presented to following topics: “Designing and assembling the experimental model of barred fluctuation system”, representing the group of Science and Technology; “Creating and researching optical properties of Nano CdSe in biological marking”; “Ferment conditions for some types of Actinomycetes with anti-fungus activities on plants”, “Designing lesson plans with imitation techniques in teaching Science and Society for grade 3”; and “Improving human resource training quality at 3-star hotels in Thai Nguyen”.

Assoc. Prof. Dr Nguyen Huu Cong – TNU Vice President presents gifts and Certificate of Merit for winners in the field of Technology and Industry

Also at the conference, the attendants had a chance to join an interesting sharing session on professional skills and research experience from Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Thuong Cat and TNU leaders. Mr. Pham's overview report on “Flat world” drew great attention from young participants.

The First TNU Young Scientists Conference, which was held for the first time, has gained positive results. This is actually a meaningful activity contributing to the accurate and practical assessment of scientific research, the development of research topics among TNU students and teachers, as well as how well they apply them to real life.
POST-GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN FRANCE

A seminar on Post-graduate Studies and Research was sponsored jointly by Thai Nguyen University (TNU) and Embassy of the France Republic in Viet Nam on the 28th May at the Learning Resource Center (LRC). This was the initial stage in the implementation process of the project “Training lecturers for a Doctor's degree in universities and colleges, period 2010 – 2020”, approved by the Prime Minister by virtue of the decision No. 911/QĐ-TTg, issued on June 17th 2010.

Mr. Jacques Frere, Attaché of Cooperation in Science and Tertiary Education, Embassy of the France Republic in Viet Nam together with the embassy staff, officials and leaders from universities and colleges in the Northern mountainous area attended the seminar.

In the past few years, as a flagship university of significant position in the North of Vietnam, TNU has put its emphasis on the development of all disciplines for Bachelor’s level and post-graduate degree. TNU was officially assigned as one of the 7 training institutions nationwide to implement the pre-doctoral training courses both domestic and abroad, for the period 2010 – 2020.

In the seminar, leaders of universities and colleges were given brief information on the educational system in France by the Attaché of Science and Tertiary Cooperation from the Embassy of France, particularly the issues related to post-graduate studies in France, among which he highlighted possible opportunities as well as noticeable challenges for the candidates.

In the afternoon, the diplomats from the French Embassy, Campus France Center and TNU officials had a further discussion on this issue at the TNU Main Office.
TNU YOUTH JOINS HANDS TO BUILD NEW RURAL AREAS

In the framework of the National Program on "Join hands to build new rural areas", Youth Union of College of Technology- Thai Nguyen University (CT- TNU) organized a Green Summer voluntary campaign in Phuc Loc Commune, Ba Be District, Bac Kan Province from 15 to 22 June 2013.

Repairing inter-village roads

Cultural Show with local youth
During the campaign, the Student Union distributed gifts to indigent families and students living in disadvantaged situation. The gifts included more than 500 kg of rice, more than 500 set of clothes and 150 notebooks.

Further, more than 30 CT students together with Phuc Loc Commune’s Youth Union organized a number of activities to help local people repair 2 highland inter-village roads, help the needy families to harvest corn, spring wheat, and organize summer camp activities for local children and cultural exchange with Phuc Loc Commune’s Youth.

The voluntary campaign of CT at Phuc Loc Commune is one of hundreds of activities of TNU’s Youth for community’s life and new rural development. Apart from voluntary activities of CT Youth Union, Youth Unions of TNU’s members are implementing voluntary activities in different communes of Phu Binh, Dong Hy, Dinh Hoa, Dai Tu, Phu Binh Districts – Thai Nguyen Province and Ha Quang District, Cao Bang Province.

It has shown the strength and enthusiasm of CT youth in particular and TNU youth in general in the construction and protection of our beautiful homeland.
THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY COMPETES IN THE GRAND FINALE OF THE 7th VNU OPEN ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

The English Olympiad team of Thai Nguyen University (TNU) actively participated in the grand finale of the 7th VNU Open English Olympiad for Non-English Majors which was held at the University Hall 10-12 of Vietnam National University (VNU) in the evening of March 22nd.

The Competing teams in the grand finale were composed of eight (8) teams from the different universities across Vietnam. This year was the first time that TNU took part in the contest. The theme for this year's contest is "Vietnamese Culture in global integration", has brought a nerve-breaking mood among the participating teams after three rounds.

In the context of growing globalization and internationalization, learning foreign languages is a necessary and significant tool for students' preparation for their life as leaders of future. The Olympiad has proved to be an effective and important global arena, which facilitates and encourages students to express themselves in sharing life's experiences and expectations using English as medium of communication. It is also serves as a motivation to improve their competence in English communication not only for the students from VNU member universities, but also for all students across the country.

At the culmination of the program, the contest committee awarded the winning prize to VNU Ho Chi Minh City's Team and the third prize was granted to TNU's Team.
SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS FROM FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Ten (10) students of Thai Nguyen University with outstanding academic standing during the Academic Year 2012-2013 receive scholarship from Hessen Ministry of Science & Arts and the University Support Organization from Federal Republic of Germany.

In the morning of 14 May 2013 at Thai Nguyen University (TNU), Dr. Bui Cong Tho – Head of Office and Representative of Hessen State (Federal Republic of Germany) in Vietnam granted 16 scholarships to deserving students who belong to disadvantageous family background yet strived hard to achieve outstanding academic ratings in Thai Nguyen. Fortunately, ten (10) deserving students of TNU were granted scholarships.

Dr. Bui Cong Tho and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dang Van Minh – Vice President of TNU present scholarship grants and Certificate of Acceptance to the recipients

Those scholarship grants would serve as a great motivation and encouragement, in terms of both material and spiritual meaning for students in their learning and self-improvement. Each student-scholar is entitled to receive stipend at 18 Euro/month for 12 months, with a total amount of 216 Euro/year (about 6,000,000 VND) and a Certificate of Scholarship Recipient with their personal information and the signature of Minister of Science & Arts (Hessen).
TNU PRESIDENT WELCOMES AMBASSADOR OF SINGAPORE TO VIETNAM

His Excellency Ng Teck Hean, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore to Vietnam, together with Honorable Philip Chua, First Secretary-Political, and staff visited TNU for the possibility of developing international collaboration on academic programs with institutions and universities in Singapore in the morning of 29 June 2013.

TNU President welcomes Ambassador of Singapore to Vietnam
A welcome message was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dang Kim Vui – President of TNU. He stated that the visit of the Ambassador and his staff to TNU is an opportune time because TNU has been actively promoting cooperation with international counterparts to make Vietnam a vital participant in the global arena in promoting quality education and training. With this, he further said that TNU is dedicated in finding solutions to the great global challenges and in preparing the students to become the next generation of leaders in the region and the whole nation, hence, the visit of the Ambassador to TNU was indeed very timely.

On the other hand, His Excellency Ng Teck Hean expressed his gratitude for the warm reception given to him and his staff. He mentioned a number of academic collaborations with universities in Vietnam, particularly with College of Economics, Thai Nguyen University. Moreover, he gave highlights on the strength of the government of Singapore in terms of autonomy and now Singapore has been developing cooperation with some ASIAN countries, especially in the field of education and training.

H.E. Ng Tech Hean answers questions from TNU English learners

Thereafter, the Ambassador of Singapore and his staff together with TNU Officials proceeded to Center for Human Resource Development for Foreign Language Studies (CFORD) to have a meeting with English teachers from the Northern Midland and Mountainous Region who are scheduled to undergo a one-month training in Singapore to commence on the second week of July this year.
THAI NGUYEN UNIVERSITY’S LEADERS VISIT
THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA AND REPUBLIC OF LAOS

Key officials of Thai Nguyen University headed by TNU President and concurrent TNU Party Secretary Dr. Dang Kim Vui had a visit to the People’s Democratic Republic of Laos and the Kingdom of Cambodia on the 2nd to the 5th of April, 2013. The visit was held for the purpose of developing international collaborations on various academic programs with educational institutions among countries.

During the working agenda with the institutions which they visited, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dang Kim Vui presented a brief introduction about TNU. Then, he discussed with emphasis the cooperation in training students from Cambodia and Laos at TNU. Further, he stated that TNU expects that the relationship between TNU and the different functional institutions in Cambodia and Laos will be enhanced through the years of their international relationship in order to bring about considerable achievements in providing quality training and education to overseas students.

At the beginning of the visit, in April 2nd, the delegation visited Lao Ministry of Education and Sports and had meeting with Deputy Minister Seng Đươn LACHANHTHABOUN. In the morning of April 3rd, the delegation of TNU came to work at National University of Lao (NUOL). After having meeting, the delegation visited the university campus, faculties, research institutes and students dormitory.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dang Kim Vui and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saykhong SAYNASINE - to sign a MOU as witnessed by delegates from the two universities
In the afternoon of the same day, the TNU delegation paid an informal visit to Vietnam Embassy in Lao People’s Democratic Republic. Mr. Pham Van Khanh–Counselor, Head of Department of Culture – Education warmly welcomed the delegation. The Counselor assured and believed that, on the basis of responsibility and relationship, he would act as a bridge to facilitate TNU effectively in its cooperative programs and scientific research with Lao training institutions.

In Cambodia, the TNU officials took the opportunity to meet His Excellency CHAN CHEA – Secretary of State for Economics and Investment, consultant of Mr. CHIA SIM – President of the Senate and President of Cambodia People's Party (CPP).

The delegation takes photos with His Excellency CHAN CHEA

The following day, in the morning of April 5th, the delegates attended a workshop at the headquarters of the Ministry of Education – Youth and Sports. Dr. PHOEURNGSackona – Secretary of the Ministry and the representatives from the different functional departments accorded cordial welcome to the TNU delegates.

In the afternoon of the same day (April 5th), the delegates had a courtesy visit to Mr. LAVCHHIVEAV – President of Cambodia’s Royal University. They were gladly welcomed by the President and the members of the university’s governing board and its functional offices.

After leaving Cambodia’s Royal University, the delegates paid a visit to Cambodia National University. Mr. HORPENG, LL.D – the President, along with members of its governing board and functional offices welcomed the representatives from TNU and they had a chance to present their working agenda for partnership.
Visit to Laos and Cambodia  
April 2 - 5

19th Anniversary of TNU Establishment  
April 4

Reunification Day  
April 30

Labor Day  
May 1

New TNU’s Vice President Appointment  
June 5

Meeting with Singaporean Ambassador  
June 29

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