

# ***A REMARKABLE JOURNEY***

SAO MAI CENTER AND ITS  
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
PARTNERS

- REFLECT ON THE PAST
- LOOK TO THE FUTURE &
- CELEBRATE

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
DECEMBER 15, 2016

# WHERE DO WE BEGIN TO SAY THANKS?

- CARLO AND AMEDEO - ITALY
  - VICTOR TSARAN – UKRAINE/USA
  - MOET & DR. NG. DUC MING - VIETNAM
  - PHUC AND RAHIM – VIETNAM AND MALAYSIA
  - THE NIPPON FOUNDATION – JAPAN
  - OVERBROOK INTERNATIONAL - USA
  - CFBT – THAILAND
  - NDC SCHOOLS – HCM, DANANG & HANOI
  - RATCHASUDA COLLEGE – THAILAND
  - VIETNAM BLIND ASSOCIATION
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- **I QUIT...THE LIST IS JUST TO LONG!**

# SO HOW DID ALL THIS GET STARTED?

- A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS:
- INGREDIENTS:
  - Two highly motivated teachers from Italy
  - An American program focused on the power of technology
  - A Japanese Foundation that believes in the capacities of blind individuals
  - Supportive government and non-government organizations
  - Lots and lots of bright highly motivated blind persons

# WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL THOSE INGREDIENTS?

- A REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO SHAKE THINGS UP
- AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT = ON-NET
- 1<sup>ST</sup> ASEAN “TRAINING OF TRAINERS” COURSE
- A BRILLIANT UKRANIAN TRAINER AND ROLE MODEL
- A REGIONAL CENTER AT RATCHASUDA COLLEGE
- NATIONAL LEVEL PROGRAMS – DEVELOPED WITH BIG INPUT FROM THE BLIND
- REGIONAL STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES COMMON TO ALL
- UNSELFISH SHARING
- THE EFA-VI GLOBAL INITIATIVE
- THE STUDY ON THE STATUS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
- THE BIRTH OF THE ICEVI REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

# EVERY GOOD CHEF NEEDS HELP

- SMALLER LESS EXPENSIVE HARDWARE
- FREE OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE – THANKS NVDA! THANKS NIPPON FDN.
- DAISY/EPUB STANDARDS
- IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS
- BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND PUBLIC POLICIES
- UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- THE MARAKESH TREATY – STILL WORK TO DO HERE
- UNIVERSAL DESIGN – OUT OF THE BOX ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTIONS
  
- THE TIRELESS SUPPORT OF BLIND INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE ASEAN REGION AND A FOUNDATION SUPPORTER THAT HAS BEEN TRUE TO ITS WORD AND GIVES BLIND PEOPLE THE POWER TO SPEAK WITH THEIR OWN VOICE

# SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- IT SEEMS ONLY THE SKY IS THE LIMIT
  - MOBILE PLATFORMS RULE
  - IMPROVED EDUCATION PROSPECTS
  - A STRONGER AND MORE VIBRANT COMMUNITY
  - MORE AND BETTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- **THE WORLD IS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS AND THERE IS NOTHING WE CANNOT DO WITH EFFORT AND PERSISTENCE – TRULY**
  - **TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER**

# THANKS!

- HAPPY ANNIVERSARY