In response to achieving the goals of the ASEAN Integration 2015, the SPUP Administration through Sister Merceditas O. Ang, SPC, University President organized an educational tour and cultural immersion among its employees. The first leg of the said initiative gave the opportunity to the employees to explore Vietnam. The exposure provided them with a glimpse of the life, culture and educational system of the said country. It also meant to trace SPUP’s historical connection, as the founders of SPUP came from Vietnam. Tour- participants were organized in two batches. The first group participated in by 26 employees, visited Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), Vietnam on June 17-19, 2015.

As excitement and curiosity enveloped the participants, they were given the chance to visit some of Vietnam’s prime destinations.

discovering Vietnam’s cultural heritage...
GENERAL POST OFFICE also reflects French architectural influence. Constructed between 1886-1891, it prides for having Gustave Eiffel as one of its designers.

HO CHI MINH CITY HALL, a stately old French colonial building holds Ho Chi Minh’s statue. It reflects the reverence of the people of Vietnam to the man who devoted his life of throwing the yoke of French colonialism in the country.

THE WAR REMNANTS MUSEUM, currently one of the most popular museums in Vietnam, gives the visitors a glimpse of the atrocities of war.

Moreover, the participants also toured the Lacquer ware factory and handicraft Center, Ben Than Market and Saigon Square. These destinations offered a quick look on the lifestyle, trade and commerce of the people of Vietnam.
Moreover, the trip gave the participants an awareness of the religious and faith practices of the people of Vietnam:

**NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL** is the seat of Catholicism in Vietnam. It is located in downtown Ho Chi Minh City. Constructed between 1863 and 1880 by French colonists, it is officially named/declared as the Basilica of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception by the Vatican.

**THIEN HAU TEMPLE**, built in the 19th century, is dedicated to a traditional deity of their ancient religion.

tracing a shared-life and mission in Vietnam...

As Vietnam is the country of origin of the first SPC Sisters who founded SPUP, the participants had the chance of partaking in the life and mission of the sisters at St. Paul’s Sisters Convent. The sisters and the SPUP group had an interaction with the ministry which the SPC Sisters in Vietnam are engaged with.
As an internationally recognized institution, SPUP forges educational partnership with other institutions that aims to provide quality education. The trip gave a chance to the participants to visit one of Vietnam’s prime institutions - the University of Economics. Both institutions discussed the possibility of an academic collaboration and human resource cooperation.

Savoring Vietnamese cuisine...

As the saying, the best way to man’s heart is through his stomach; indeed the trip provided the participants an unforgettable gastronomic adventure. The group had a first-hand experience with Vietnamese cuisine which poses a balance between fresh herbs and meats and a selective use of spices to reach a fine taste.

When this endeavor was initiated, the employees looked forward with anticipation. Now that it has materialized, to look back tickles shared memories that will last a lifetime. As part of an educational institution, the moments we shared together did not only broaden our outlook but enhanced our knowledge for indeed, Trips are not measured by MileMarkers, but by Moments!

Our deep gratitude to Sr. Merceditas for making this happen! Our next journey awaits us...

SPUP ASEAN TOUR 2015 - BATCH I
SR. RUBY ABELLANA, SPC + SR. DIVINAGRACIA TAN, SPC + SR. WILFREDA LUNA, SPC + GRIPINA MARIBAY + INICIA BANISG + MARIA LECDEVINA BATUGAI + JUANA RIVERA + ROSALINDA TANGUilan + MARIE ROSEALIE TANGUilan + MARA ANUNCINION TALOSIG + EDGAR TALOSIG + ELAINE ABAD + GERALDINE BUGARIN + EVA DELA CRUZ + ZENaida ESTIL + VISITACION MAGUIIDAYAO + LITA JOSE + LUZVEL TULIO + VISITACION DOMINGO + SUSAN ATTABAAN + MELCHORA ATTABAAN + CHERILE BUGARIN + ALMA GUAUTIN + HOLIS SIBAL + MOISES CALUCAC + JOHN PAUL TONG