



OUTWARD BOUND
VIETNAM

NEWSLETTER



10TH EDITION - JULY 2025

Foreword

DEAR COLLEAGUES, PARTNERS, AND FRIENDS,

As we mark the 10th edition of the OBV Newsletter, I'm proud to reflect on the many milestones and meaningful moments that have shaped the first half of 2025. This has been a dynamic period of progress, highlighted by leadership transitions, new partnerships, impactful programmes, and continuous improvements in our training and operations.

The successful completion of the Outward Bound International Biennial Risk Management Review underscores our steadfast commitment to safety, quality, and transformative outdoor education. We are also pleased to welcome new members to our Governing Council—each bringing valuable expertise that will contribute to OBV's growth and impact.

From instructor training to the launch of new initiatives such as summer camps and the Duke of Edinburgh programme, each effort reflects our mission: empowering individuals through challenge, discovery, and meaningful connection with nature.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities still to come in 2025. Thank you and I hope you enjoy reading this edition!

Warm regards,



Nguyen Huong Lan
Acting Executive Director

Governance

● LEADERSHIP TRANSITION – INTRODUCTION OF OBV’S NEW ACTING EXECUTING DIRECTOR!

As of June 2025, OBV is pleased to welcome Ms. Nguyen Huong Lan as our Acting Executive Director. She holds an MBA from La Trobe University (Australia) and brings over 14 years of experience in international education management across K–12, vocational training, higher education, and outdoor experiential learning. Since joining OBV in 2022 as Director, Ms. Huong Lan has displayed her strong expertise in operations, corporate strategy, and business development. With a deep understanding of OBV’s mission and strategic direction, she is well positioned to lead OBV into its next phase.

We look forward to her continued leadership as she advances our mission of delivering impactful outdoor learning experiences!



● NEW FACES IN OBV’S GOVERNING COUNCIL

In the first quarter of 2025, OBV welcomed three outstanding professionals to our Governing Council: Mr. Bala Krish, Dr. Phi Thi Linh Giang, and Professor Basskaran Nair. With diverse expertise in education, research, public service, and leadership, we strongly believe that they will bring valuable insights to strengthen OBV’s governance and contribute to our continued growth. Join us in extending a warm welcome to our new Council members!



Mr. Bala Krish brings over two decades of educational leadership across both K–12 and higher education sectors



Dr. Phi Thi Linh Giang, with a PhD in Tourism Management and Sustainable Development, and over 10 years of experience in research and academia



Professor Basskaran Nair – an accomplished leader whose career spans public service, corporate communications, academia, and entrepreneurship

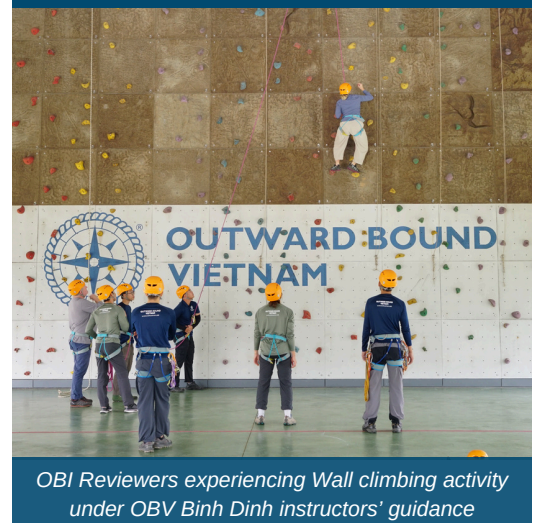


***OBI Reviewers and OBV Team in Binh Dinh*

● OUTWARD BOUND INTERNATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2025

We are proud to share that OBV has successfully completed the Outward Bound International (OBI) Risk Management Review 2025. This rigorous biennial process is essential to maintain OBI's global endorsement and ensure OBV continues to meet the highest global standards in safety, programme quality, and experiential learning. We were honoured to welcome two reviewers, Mr. Iain Peter, Executive Director of OBI, and Ms. Malindi MacLean, Chief Executive Officer of Outward Bound New Zealand, to our Headquarters in Hanoi and our Binh Dinh basecamp from 31 March to 4 April. Their visit offered a valuable opportunity for OBV to demonstrate our commitment to delivering safe, high-quality, and meaningful outdoor experiential learning tailored to the Vietnamese context.

The successful outcome of the review reaffirms OBV's position as a trusted and professionally managed Outward Bound school, dedicated to empowering youth and adults through transformative outdoor education.



OBI Reviewers experiencing Wall climbing activity under OBV Binh Dinh instructors' guidance

Engagements



• OBV AT QUY NHON UNIVERSITY JOB FAIR 2025

On 17 May, OBV was delighted to participate in the annual Quy Nhon University (QNU) Job Fair. As a long-standing partner of QNU, we remain committed to creating meaningful employment opportunities for the youth of Quy Nhon and Binh Dinh province.



OBV team showcasing exciting career opportunities to the students of Quy Nhon University at the Job Fair

It was a pleasure engaging with QNU students and sharing insights into the exciting career paths at OBV. We sincerely thank QNU for hosting this successful event and all students who visited our booth. OBV looks forward to welcoming future talents to our team and continuing to expand the reach and impact of our work.

• RECCE TO TAM CHUC COMPLEX, NINH BINH PROVINCE

In June, OBV conducted a site recce to the Tam Chuc Complex in Ninh Binh province as part of our efforts to identify new operational areas. We explored the potential for both land- and water-based expeditions, as well as opportunities to integrate cultural and spiritual elements into our multi-day programmes. With its stunning landscapes and rich cultural setting, Tam Chuc shows great potential—especially for corporate groups. We're confident of developing and conducting new programmes in this promising location.



OBV team exploring the stunning Tam Chuc Complex for future programme opportunities

Programme Summary

● SCHOOL & CORPORATE PROGRAMMES

From January to June 2025, OBV had the privilege of welcoming back trusted partners from both school and corporate groups, including the Singapore International School (SIS) network, QSI International School of Hai Phong, KinderWorld International Group (KIG), and Swing for Kids Scholarship programme. Each tailored programme provided customised experiential learning opportunities, from team-building challenges to community engagement and environmental exploration, all designed to foster personal growth, resilience, and leadership among participants.



KIG staff taking on the navigating challenge in Binh Dinh



"There were so many firsts on this trip! Five days away from my phone was actually really refreshing! My first proper hike, trying abseiling – what an experience! And yes, the two-day no-shower adventure! We experienced a whole spectrum of emotions: sadness, happiness, frustration, fear, and maybe a little embarrassment along the way. Facing my fears was tough, but our amazing teammates and the two fantastic instructors (who became like family!) made it possible. We were all in it together!" Bui Thanh Huyen, KIG staff

● OBV HOSTS FIRST DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD PROGRAMME IN HA LONG



Brighton College Vietnam (Hanoi) students on a hiking expedition as part of their DofE – Bronze programme in Ha Long

From 18 to 19 January, OBV Ha Long proudly partnered with Brighton College Vietnam (Hanoi) to deliver our first Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) programme—an exciting milestone in the expansion of our educational offerings. The DofE Award is a globally recognised programme that not only fosters self-development and confidence but also provides valuable accreditation for future academic and career opportunities. Throughout the adventurous journey in Ha Long, Brighton College Vietnam (Hanoi) students carried their own gear, trekked through challenging terrain, set up camp, and cooked their own meals—demonstrating remarkable determination, perseverance, and strong team spirit.

Programme Summary

● SUMMER ADVENTURES AT OBV BINH DINH

In June and July 2025, OBV Binh Dinh proudly co-hosted two summer camps with our partners: The Dewey Schools (TDS) and the United World Colleges (UWC) Short Course. The TDS summer camp in June provided students with a chance to reconnect with nature and enjoy a fun, adventure-filled break after a busy school year.



Both camps reflect OBV's strong commitment to experiential learning and empowering young individuals to become resilient, responsible global citizens.



Meanwhile, the UWC Short Course returned in July with the inspiring theme “Doing Good,” continuing its strong collaboration with OBV. This year’s programme focuses on deepening participants’ understanding of social impact, environmental conservation, and sustainable development.



*The Dewey Schools
Summer Camp
at OBV Binh Dinh*



Staffing & Training

● TABLE-TOP EXERCISE (TTX) IN BINH DINH

Safety remains at the heart of everything we do at OBV. Recently, our Binh Dinh base organised a Table-top Exercise (TTX) focused on incident management and strengthening our response to potential situations during outdoor activities. The exercise brought together staff from various departments to work through real-life scenarios in a structured, discussion-based format. This collaborative setting enabled our teams to develop effective strategies, clarify roles, and strengthen both communication and teamwork in high-pressure situations. Insights and feedback gained from this TTX are also instrumental in enhancing our operational readiness and ensuring the safety of our participants.



Opening remarks by OBV Deputy Director and collaborative scenario discussions at OBV Binh Dinh

● TRAINING SUPPORT FROM OBS

With continued support through OBS's training scholarships, two OBV Lead Instructors successfully completed the intensive 21-day Classic Challenge Course in April 2025—an experience that tested and strengthened their resilience, leadership, and technical skills.



"21 days in OBS felt like a dream—an unforgettable journey filled with challenges, joy, growth, and countless meaningful moments. 'Expect the unexpected' perfectly captured our experience, as each day brought something new and surprising that felt meant to be. I'm deeply grateful for it all—the struggles, the laughter, and the quiet moments of reflection. I met people from around the world who inspired me to live more fully, keep learning, and move forward with purpose."

Nguyen Son Ca, Lead Instructor, OBV Binh Dinh

Staffing & Training

● TRAINING SUPPORT FROM OBS

In May, we also welcomed Ms. Mei Ying, OBS's Senior Manager (Resource & Planning), to our Binh Dinh base to deliver the Kayaking 1 & 2 Star training for our team. Thanks to this hands-on training, six of our instructional staff completed the certification programme, gaining essential kayaking skills, safety protocols, and water confidence.

These ongoing exchanges continue to enhance instructional quality at OBV and lay the groundwork for future collaborative initiatives with OBS. Thank you, OBS, for your continued partnership and unwavering support over the years!



Hands-on training led by OBS Trainer, covering paddle handling, launch techniques, sea condition assessment, and more at OBV Binh Dinh

"It was a real privilege to spend two weeks with the passionate and dedicated team at OBV Binh Dinh. Delivering the Kayaking 1 & 2 Star training course for the instructors was both energising and rewarding. What stood out to me was their eagerness to learn and how much they appreciated the structured approach, which helped break down their existing knowledge and experiences into clear, transferable skills. I'm grateful for the team's warm hospitality, our meaningful conversations and our shared learnings. I'm looking forward to seeing how our collaboration continues to grow in the years ahead!"

Mei Ying, OBS Senior Manager (Resource & Planning)



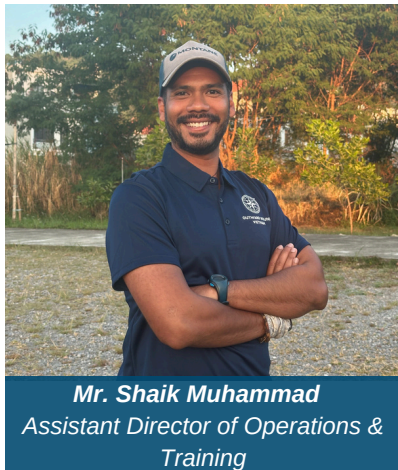
Ms. Mei Ying, OBS Trainer with the OBV Binh Dinh team

Staffing & Training

- **NEW STAFF POSTINGS!**

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Mr. Shaik Muhammad to Assistant Director of Operations & Training, effective 1 July 2024. Formerly serving as Head of Operations in Ha Long, Shaik has played a key role in ensuring our programmes and operational quality. In his new role, he will provide strategic and systematic direction across both our Binh Dinh and Ha Long bases, while also working closely with the leadership team to enhance policies and systems that ensure smooth operations of programmes and trainings. We're also pleased to share that Mr. Bright Gezimati, formerly Deputy Manager (Operations and Training), has been appointed Head of Operations & Training at OBV Ha Long.

Please join us in congratulating both Shaik and Bright on their new roles!



Contact us for more information!



*An organisation registered as a life-skills provider with the Vietnamese
Department of Education & Training (DOET)*

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