



Jimmy Pham AM

Founder / Executive Chairman / Social Entrepreneur

KOTO Foundation

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know one, teach one



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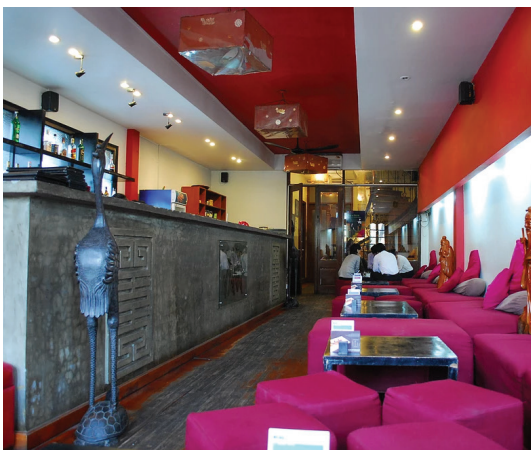
Jimmy Viet Tuan Pham emigrated with his mother and four older siblings from Vietnam in 1974, eventually settling in Australia in 1980. Jimmy's professional background in tourism and hospitality management brought him back to Vietnam in 1996. He first witnessed the plight of at-risk youth on the streets of Hanoi, and KOTO was born. In 2019, KOTO is celebrating its 20th Anniversary.

From humble beginnings as a sandwich stall manned by nine street youth in 1999, KOTO has grown to be an internationally recognized and award-winning non-profit social enterprise, providing a 24-month intensive internationally-accredited vocational training program in hospitality training (Front of House and Back of House/Cookery), crucial life skills and English language for at-risk and disadvantaged youth in Vietnam. This is delivered through KOTO's national training center in Hanoi and its training restaurants in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Almost 1000 trainees have graduated from KOTO and at any given time there are 180 trainees undertaking the program. Jimmy continues to take a strong interest in every KOTO trainee. He personally knows the story of every single trainee that has been or going through the KOTO program!

In 2016, KOTO became the first legally registered entity operating as a social enterprise in Vietnam, after much-sought changes to the national law on Enterprises. Recent awards include KOTO being named as a finalist for the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy's Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award in 2013. In the same year, KOTO was awarded the inaugural UNICEF Vietnam Zero Award for Social Innovation for its work championing the rights of children and youth. In 2017, KOTO was awarded a Pioneer in the field of Social Enterprise by the Centre for Social Initiatives Promotion and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). In 2018, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the "Her Turn: Women's Economic Empowerment Project in Vietnam" funded KOTO to provide vocational and/or entrepreneurial skills training to rural and/or ethnic minority women. In addition, a number of KOTO female alumnae will receive in-depth women's leadership and entrepreneurial skills training.

Jimmy and KOTO have played host to many visiting foreign dignitaries to Vietnam including President Bill Clinton (2000), Queen Margrethe of Denmark (2009) and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard (2012).

KOTO has also been featured and profiled across numerous media platforms, including in Australia (ABC), South Korea (KBS and MBC), Switzerland (Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen), the United Kingdom (BBC) and the United States (PBS and the New York Times) and Vietnam (VTV).



AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO VIETNAM

November 17, 2017

During the recent APEC Summit in Da Nang City, KOTO Founder, Jimmy Pham, and two KOTO alumni, Quan Nguyen and Tam Nguyen joined the dinner to welcome Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Malcolm Turnbull, to Vietnam.



Signing Ceremony of Memorandum of Understandings between QTS & KOTO.

August 25, 2015

On August 25th 2015, a signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between KOTO and Quality Training Services (QTS) was held in KOTO's Saigon Training Restaurant. The MOU is acknowledged as a significant step for the collaboration to promote the high-quality KOTO traineeship group and help young people access to QTS.

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KOTO Fundraiser 2018 in Hong Kong.

November 25, 2018

On August 25th, 2018, an evening & day event will be held at Le Garden Center in Hong Kong to raise funds for the KOTO Australia. It is an evening & day event. The day event will be held at Le Garden Center in Hong Kong. The evening event will be held at Le Garden Center in Hong Kong. The day event will be held at Le Garden Center in Hong Kong. The evening event will be held at Le Garden Center in Hong Kong.



KOTO Trainees participate Australian Day



Jimmy's Personal Highlights

- ✧ Finalist, Swabb Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year, 2009;
- ✧ Acknowledged as Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2011;
- ✧ Appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), an honor acknowledging his significant service to the community, particularly with marginalized children and youth in Vietnam in 2013;
- ✧ Awarded the Overseas Applied Research Fellowship with the International Specialized Skills Institute (ISSI) in 2016;
- ✧ Received the POSCO TJ Park Prize, the second largest and most prestigious award in South Korea, under the Community Development and Philanthropy category in 2017.
- ✧ Jimmy was ranked in the top 40 motivational speakers for two years in a row (2015-2016) by Saxton Speaking Bureau. He has spoken at numerous conference events, educational institutions; and non-governmental organizations in the field of development, civil society and social enterprise. In addition, Jimmy has spoken at TEDx events in both 2012 and 2017.
- ✧ Jimmy is currently completing his EMBA on a scholarship awarded by the Auscham Vietnam chapter. He is expected to complete his studies in 2019.

KOTO stands for "Know One, Teach One" and underlies Jimmy's philosophy. "To be successful means giving back," he said. "KOTO instills in the kids the idea of participatory community and asks in return that each of the KOTO trainees does the same. It really is asking ourselves, do we give someone a fish or do we teach them how to fish."



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