

## Conference Abstract

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 23-26 June, 2005:  
Reflective Practice – The key to innovation in international education**

### **Educational and Cultural Resilience in Vietnamese Educational Leaders: Four Stories**

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This study focussed on the experiences of four Vietnamese teacher leaders who were, or had been, enrolled in postgraduate study in a New Zealand educational institution. After working to obtain an understanding of the concepts of 'cultural resilience' with a strong emphasis on the Vietnamese context, through the literature, I used it as a lens through which to focus their reactions and my interactions with the four participants.

The study gained the subjects' views and perceptions of the role of Vietnamese culture in helping to determine academic success achieved by the students during their time in New Zealand.

Themes that emerged from the literature and my encounters with the case study participants, their friends, colleagues and families can be seen as interconnected and linked. The four themes are:

- ★ The need for connectedness to culture.
- ★ Understanding that conflict has played an integral part in all Vietnamese people's lives.
- ★ The role of family, extended family and community seems to have contributed toward an individual strength. I hasten to add that this is not a peculiarly Vietnamese characteristic.
- ★ The role of forgiveness appears to be significant in assisting individual Vietnamese 'strength'.