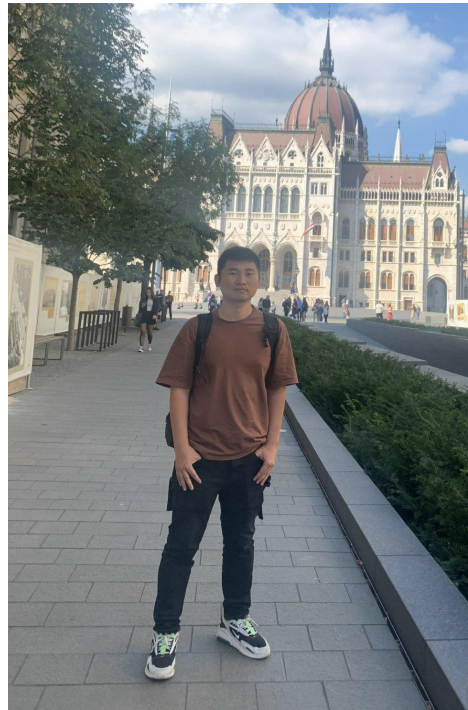


# The Team

We are the Kartoffel group with five members. All of us are students from the Sustainable Urban Development Master program of Vietnamese German University (VGU), Vietnam.

The list and primary role of each member in the project are as below:

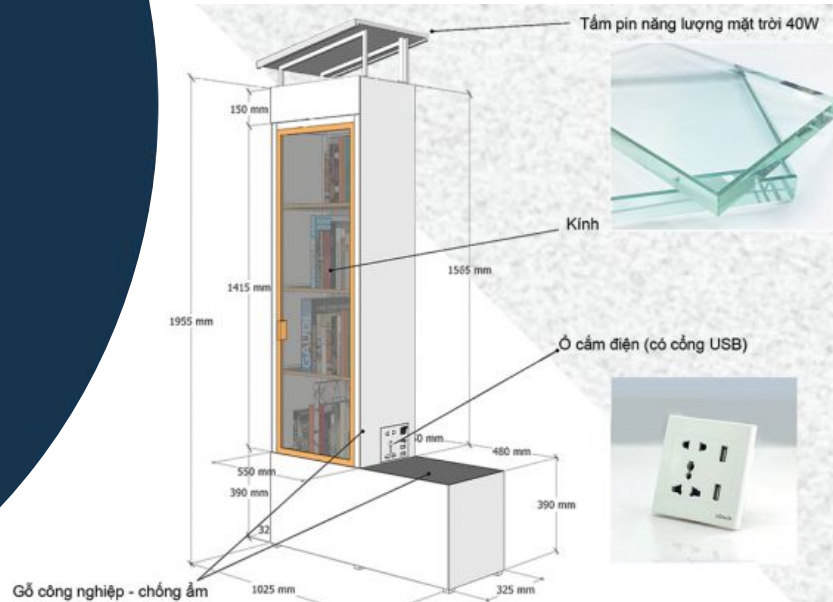
1. Vo Phan Hoang Trang – Leader
2. Lam Hong Ngoc – Research & Design
3. Nguyen Hoai Vu – Research & Report
4. Nguyen Phuong Khanh – Research & Product supervisor
5. Nguyen Quynh Chi – Research & report



# Circular Innovation Overview

Paper is the primary material used in the printing industry to produce books and magazines. This process consumes natural resources like water and wood. The ink used in printing comprises chemical components that can pose a risk to the environment if improperly treated. The life cycle of printed products is relatively short once their content has been utilised. This raises the question, Where will old printed materials like old books go? Typically, people get rid of such items and are classified as waste.

Instead of immediately disposing of old books and magazines, they can be repurposed and given a new life. Reusing is at the top of the Waste Hierarchy, which can be the solution for treating reading material. In Vietnamese culture, there is a saying, "*cũ người mới ta*", meaning that what is old to one person may be new to another. This serves as a reminder that old printed material can still be helpful to someone else. Inspired by street library book boxes in Europe, our group created VGU Book Booth 0.0, an Exchange Box dedicated to promoting the sharing of books, newspapers, magazines, and other reading materials among those who no longer need them and those who do.



In addition, our project incorporates renewable energy by implementing photovoltaic energy panels (PEP) to generate electricity for phone charging.



# Project Goals

We aim to create a more sustainable and eco-friendly solution by reducing paper waste and using solar power. Furthermore, we aspire to promote a passion for reading among individuals.

The VGU Book Booth 0.0 will undergo its initial testing phase at the VGU campus, catering to all students, lecturers, staff, and visitors. Subsequently, it will be made accessible to the wider community surrounding the campus.

Currently, the project is operational within the confines of the university library. The primary objective of this initiative is to facilitate the sharing of knowledge amongst individuals, allowing them to exchange books they have read instead of discarding them as waste. By implementing this project, we hope to cultivate a more robust reading culture among students.



## The first milestone

After several months of implementing the project, it is evident that the book booth functions quite efficiently. Numerous students have deposited their books, and the cycle of "old books go, and new books come" occurs regularly. Our group is pleased that VGU staff and students welcome this project.

One of our first accomplishments is the successful implementation of the VGU Book Booth 0.0, which has garnered enthusiastic participation from students, professors, and staff alike. Thanks to the support of the VGU library, we were able to establish a prime location for the booth, and the SUD program lecture generously contributed valuable books to the project.

Via this project, the team is pleased to have a relationship with Circular Cities Asia, which has generously provided us with funding to carry out the project. We are truly grateful for this opportunity.

We hope to secure additional funding to expand the deployment of booths in the vicinity of the school, thereby benefiting the local community, particularly the children.

## Process of making the book booth



*The frame of the book booth*



*Old books from one student*

Moreover, during the steps of making the book booth, we learned many things about the different of materials, advantages and disadvantages to make the final decision on the design of the book booth.



# Micro Grant

We used the micro-grant to purchase materials, install, and assemble the first VGU Book Booth 0.0 and it is in operation.



*Finished installing*



*Under operating*



## Lessons Learnt

This project is an excellent opportunity for us to learn about case studies around the world. It widens our knowledge during the research process. We had a chance to practice the design. The biggest achievement is practical implementation, making our product comes true and operate. Everyone uses the VGU Book Booth 0.0 with the right function.

We improved our teamwork skills, construction management, quality management, and project progress throughout the project.

Another thing we can learn is that during the preparation step to make the book booth, we need to contact to many different construction company, dealing with them on the price, bargaining, and get more knowledge on different materials. Moreover, we also learn on how to persuade and promote the project to another students to make them agree to share there old books.



## Stories

When it comes to community projects, funding is always a crucial issue. Our project originated from the VGU Innovation Challenge competition, where we received valuable feedback from experts that helped us refine the design and content of our project. We were thrilled to receive an award that allowed us to create a pilot for the project. When selecting a material for a bookcase, it's essential to consider both the cost and its ability to withstand harsh weather conditions. Unfortunately, these factors caused our budget estimates to spiral out of control. Thankfully, we were fortunate enough to receive support from Circular Cities Asia. Without funding from Circular Cities Asia, it would be challenging to turn the idea into reality. We are grateful for the support from Circular Cities Asia. Thanks to your support, we were able to share the essence of our project - the application of circular economy - with our users.





## Next Steps

We have the ambition to create a creational space for Binh Duong residents, mostly low-income workers. Therefore, we hope can receive more and more funding to make it come true.