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U.S. VIETNAM
TRADE COUNCIL
EDUCATION FORUM

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

“International Negotiations on Climate Change: Economic Opportunities and Consequences for Vietnam”

International concern grows about the accelerating pace of global warming. Vietnam, along with other emerging economies, is aware that the stakes are high for economic growth as well as for the environment. On Monday April 27, 2009, the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Science, Technology & Environment of the Vietnam National Assembly will sponsor a one-day seminar, “International Negotiations on Climate Change: Economic Opportunities and Consequences for Vietnam.” The Seminar organizers are the U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council Education Forum (USVTC-EF) and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), an internationally respected source of scientific and policy expertise on climate change. The Seminar will address two questions: How can Vietnam take best advantage of the international climate negotiations now underway to obtain ideas, technology and financial resources needed to slow climate change, protect its environment and continue economic growth? How might Vietnam organize its response to climate change so that the economic risks are limited, and the benefits to the environment and the economy are at the maximum?

The seeds for this Seminar were planted in October 2008 when over 200 people spent 2 days at a conference, “Climate Change: Innovations in Public-Private Partnerships with Global Economic Uncertainty.” In addition to USVTC, other sponsors included the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Network for NGOs & Civil Society Organizations on Climate Change; Vietnam Forum of Environmental Journalists; and the Ford Foundation. The April 27th Seminar will also respond to President Nguyen Minh Triet’s comment when he met with EDF and USVTC in October: that Vietnam must continue to broaden its knowledge and capacity in order to manage all aspects of climate change.

At the Seminar, international experts will brief key National Assembly committees and senior government officials on negotiations at Copenhagen and beyond; approaches to creating a Low Carbon Economy and high energy efficiencies; helping poor farmers to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture and earn more income; carbon trading and markets; and new financing mechanisms that can sustain economic growth while protecting the environment. Examples will be given from key countries, including the U.S., China and Mexico.

Experts who will speak at the Seminar will include:

- Assoc. Prof., Dr. Tran Thuc, Director General, Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology & Environment, MONRE
- Prof. Dr. Mai Trong Nhuan, President, Vietnam National University - Hanoi
- Mr. Peter Goldmark, Director, Climate & Air Program, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
- Dr. Daniel Dudek, Chief Economist, Environmental Defense Fund and Director, EDF China Office
- Dr. Zach Willey, Economist, Climate & Air Program and Land, Water & Wildlife Program, EDF, and Co-Editor “Harnessing Farms & Forests in the Low Carbon Economy”
- Mr. Sadeep Patel – Finance/Energy Expert; former Managing Director, Goldman Sachs, New York & India
- Dr. Gernot Wagner, Economist, Climate & Air Program, EDF
- Mr. Oliver Massmann, Managing Partner, Duane Morris LLP, Vietnam

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