

## Vietnam UPDATE

July – September 2007

### Vietnamese PM Nguyen Tan Dung Attends UN General Assembly



*PM Nguyen Tan Dung and USVTC-EF Chairman and Former Ambassador Pete Peterson with their spouses at the banquet hosted by the Vietnamese Mission in New York, (VNGOP)*

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung paid a five-day visit to New York, USA, to attend the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, September 24-28. In New York, PM Dung delivered a speech at the UNGA 62<sup>nd</sup> Session. He confirmed that as a new non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Vietnam would be a proactive, constructive, cooperative and responsible participant in international affairs. PM Dung also had meetings with world leaders to garner support for Vietnam's bid for a UN Security Council non-permanent seat.

PM Dung also met with many U.S. companies and press. On the morning of September 28, PM Dung visited the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) to witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NYSE and the Hanoi Stock Exchange and rang the opening bell.

For more information on this historic visit see our website. <http://www.usvtc.org>

### UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

- November 4-8, 2007: U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez leads a trade mission to Vietnam to boost export opportunities for American companies.
- November 11-15, 2007: The USVTC-EF helps organize the German Marshall Fund sponsored journalist trip to Vietnam.

### U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council President awarded the Vietnamese Medal of Friendship

Vietnam has awarded the President of the USVTC the Vietnamese President's Medal of Friendship for her integral role in contributing to the promotion and normalization of Vietnam-U.S. diplomatic and economic ties since 1989. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Gia



*USVTC President Virginia B. Foote is awarded the Vietnamese Medal of Friendship by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Gia Kiem (USVTC-EF)*

Khiem presented the Medal to Ms. Foote at a ceremony held in Hanoi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on July 26 that was attended by representatives from the Government Office, Ministries, and the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations.

Also present at the award ceremony were U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Michael Marine, VTC staff and representatives of the U.S. Embassy, AmCham Hanoi, USAID, and STAR Vietnam.

On September 12, Ms. Foote was also presented with the Medal for Peace and Friendship among Peoples by the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) in recognition of her contribution to relations between the two countries. The Medal was presented by VUFO Chairman Vu Xuan Hong at a ceremony in their headquarters in Hanoi. (Check our website at <http://www.usvtc.org> for more details).



*PM Nguyen Tan Dung rings the opening bell at the NYSE September 28, 2007 (VNGOP)*

### **USVTC-EF and STAR Vietnam**

The USVTC-EF has been part of the Support for Trade Acceleration project (STAR Vietnam) funded and supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support the Government of Vietnam to implement the U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement

and begin reforms needed for accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). We are pleased to announce that USVTC-EF working with the Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) and its other partners is part of the STAR II program funded and supported by the USAID.

STAR II focuses on supporting the development of institutional and administrative systems needed to implement the massive legal and regulatory changes that have been promulgated over the last five years in the areas of trade in goods and services, commercial dispute settlement, intellectual property rights protection, development of foreign direct investment, transparency and the right to appeal. These reforms are partnered with extensive educational programs that include training for officials, lawyers, judges, and business leaders; revision of university curriculums and capacity development; and media-based public education campaigns.

In July 2007 STAR Vietnam, in cooperation with the Central Institute of Economic Management and the Foreign Investment Agency, published an ***Assessment of the Five-Year Impact of the United States-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement on Vietnam's Trade, Investment and Economic Structure*** in an effort to provide an assessment after five years of BTA implementation of the positive benefits as well as remaining challenges, taken in the context of Vietnam's recent accession to the WTO. (Check our website for more details at <http://www.usvtc.org/recent.asp>).

### **USVTC-EF Organizes a Governance Delegation to the U.S.**

The USVTC-EF, with the special support from Tate Foundation, is organizing a project bringing 12 Vietnamese professionals to Washington, DC, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, for a three week (October 3-22) program on governance. The program is the second part of a governance program

pursuant to a grant from U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Culture Affairs (BECA) to promote shared expertise, open dialogue and understanding among leaders of government, business, non-governmental organizations and civic associations in the United States and in Vietnam. "The U.S.-Vietnam: Responsible Government Exchange Program" aims to educate citizens and community leaders in mechanisms and administrative procedures for regular engagement in public discussions and participation in public policy. This program is conducted in partnership with the Young Businesspeople Associations Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy and Consulate General and the State of Oklahoma. The three-week program in the United States is for 12 participants selected from the 200 participants attending the introductory seminars held in Hanoi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City during the first phase of the program. During the program in the U.S. they will meet with the State Department, the Department of Commerce, the Justice Project, the Heritage Foundation, the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Vietnam Embassy and Sidley Austin LLP. We are especially grateful that the participants will also participate in a two-week training and internship course in Oklahoma.

### **Entrepreneurship Grant Announcement**

The USVTC-EF has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of State for the initiation of a new program on entrepreneurial business leadership. "The U.S.-Vietnam: Business Leadership & Development Exchange Program" is designed to help build understanding and appreciation for entrepreneurialism and business practices conducted in the U.S. The program also promotes shared expertise and open dialogue among entrepreneurs in the U.S. as well as an

understanding of U.S. business practices, and enhancement of their ability to initiate and support economic development and democracy in Vietnam.

The 18 month-long program will consist of four key components: 1) four one-day seminars held in Hanoi, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho; 2) a three-week business training and mentoring program in the U.S. for a selected group of 30 individuals; 3) facilitated communication between U.S. mentors and Vietnamese fellows to support implementation of individual business action plans; and 4) follow-up meetings and continued assistance and dialogue between US and Vietnamese program participants. The targeted start for execution of Component I is the fourth quarter of 2007, followed by Component II in the third quarter of 2008, and Component IV will conclude before the second quarter of 2009.

We hope that "The U.S.-Vietnam: Business Leadership & Development Exchange Program" will be enhanced by strong participation of the U.S. private sector. We look forward to working closely with U.S. companies to develop this program further.

### **Soccer Grant Announcement**

The USVTC-EF has been awarded a grant from the U.S. State Department for the initiation of a new program on women's soccer in Vietnam. "The U.S.-Vietnam: Women in Soccer Sports Exchange Program" aims to further improve understanding between the people of Vietnam and the United States through youth sports.

The program will consist of two main components: 1) three one-day training clinics for approximately 200-300 female athletes (within the 12-18 year old range) and 30-45 coaches in several locations across Vietnam and 2) an 8-10 day visit to the United States for a smaller group of

coaches and athletes. The first component will be conducted in the spring of 2008, with the second component occurring sometimes in the late summer or early fall of 2008. Women's Soccer is one of the most popular sports in Vietnam, as reflected in FIFA's Global Ranking of the 37<sup>th</sup> best women's team in the world. The program is designed to increase soccer participation and infrastructure for Vietnamese women and their coaches, through an international partnership.

We hope that "The U.S.-Vietnam: Women in Soccer Sports Exchange Program" will be enhanced by strong participation of the U.S. private sector. We look forward to working closely with U.S. companies to develop this program further.

### **National Assembly Session**

The First Session of the 12<sup>th</sup> National Assembly (July 19-August 3) adopted the government's new structure with five deputy prime ministers, and 22 new ministries and ministerial-level agencies. It also agreed to merging and name change of six ministries.

Minister of Education Nguyen Thien Nhan and Minister of Industry Hoang Trung Hai were nominated deputy prime ministers, together with the three current deputy prime ministers: Nguyen Sinh Hung, Pham Gia Khiem and Truong Vinh Trong.

Below is the list of ministers and heads of ministerial-level agencies.

1. Phung Quang Thanh, Minister of Defense
2. Le Hong Anh, Minister of Public Security
3. Pham Gia Khiem, Minister of Foreign Affairs
4. Tran Van Tuan, Minister of Home Affairs
5. Ha Hung Cuong, Minister of Justice
6. Vo Hong Phuc, Minister of Planning and Investment

7. Vu Van Ninh, Minister of Finance
8. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade
9. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
10. Ho Nghia Dung, Minister of Transport
11. Nguyen Hong Quan, Minister of Construction
12. Pham Khoi Nguyen, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
13. Le Doan Hop, Minister of Information and Communications
14. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Minister of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs
15. Hoang Tuan Anh, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism
16. Hoang Van Phong, Minister of Science and Technology
17. Nguyen Thien Nhan, Minister of Education and Training
18. Nguyen Quoc Trieu, Minister of Public Health
19. Giang Seo Phu, Minister, Chairman of the Committee for Ethnic Minorities
20. Nguyen Van Giau, Governor of the State Bank of Viet Nam
21. Tran Van Truyen, Inspector General of the Government Inspectorate
22. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Minister, Director of the Government Office

### **New Offices**

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