

Vietnam UPDATE
October 2008-May 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- April 26-30: USVTC, EDF, and the Vietnam government, hold a second conference on Climate Change.
- February 8-27: Component II of the Entrepreneurship Study Mission takes place in California and Oklahoma.
- December 10: USVTC-EF and STAR receive grant from GE Foundation for Rule of Law Program

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

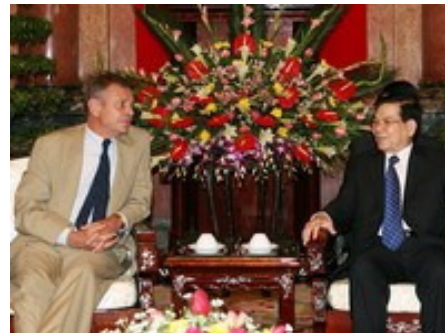
- April 26-30: USVTC, EDF, and the Vietnam government, hold a second conference on Climate Change.
- February 8-27: Component II of the Entrepreneurship Study Mission Takes Place in California and Oklahoma.
- December 17: Senator Max Baucus (D-Montana) addresses the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

USVTC Holds Second Conference on Climate Change in Vietnam

USVTC joined with the Environmental Defense Fund and the Vietnamese National Assembly to hold a second conference on climate change, *International Negotiations on Climate Change: Economic Opportunities and Consequences for Vietnam*, in Vietnam on April 27, 2009.

The Seminar addressed two questions:

1. 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?
2. 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?



Experts that spoke at the conference included:

- Associate Professor 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

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- Dr. Zach Willey, Economist, Climate & Air Program and Land, Water & Wildlife Program, EDF
- 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

USVTC held a climate change conference on October 14-15, 2008. The conference included remarks from Peter Goldmark, who works with EDF and also spoke at the conference in April. The conference was held in conjunction with the Ford Foundation and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment in Vietnam and was attended by over 200 people.

The conference is one of two activities for 2009 that was planned as a next step from the October 2008 climate change conference.

USVTC-EF Receives Grant for Rule of Law Program

USVTC-EF and STAR Vietnam have received a one-year, \$225,000 grant from the GE Foundation, the philanthropic organization of General Electric, for a program on the rule of law in Vietnam, **Advancing the Rule of Law in Vietnam**. GE Foundation will enhance USVTC-EF and STAR Vietnam's work on the rule of law in Vietnam, mandated by the WTO and other international commitments, through partnerships with the US Government and the private sector.

The program will focus on increasing transparency and public participation in the law and rule making process, a key requirement of the WTO, which will strengthen the rule of law and should lead to increased economic development and growth as well.

Entrepreneurship Study Mission Travels to California and Oklahoma

Twenty three selected business leaders from Vietnam traveled to San Francisco and Tulsa as part of the second component of the Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training and Exchange Program. The program took place February 8-27, 2009.

The participants for the trip were selected from over 200 who participated in seminars from Component I of the program, which took place in Vietnam.

Each of the 23 participants for the United States delegation were identified as fellows and took place in seminars and projects that focused on promoting the best practices in business and entrepreneurship.

As part of the program, the fellows were asked to identify a business issue they would like to address during the U.S. portion of the program.

Each fellow was assigned a consultant from the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center which was tasked with maintaining contact with the fellows and providing face-to-face individual business counseling while serving as a mentor.

Each fellow was expected, before they left the United States, to 1) draft an action plan on how they would grow their business and how the plan will support development in Vietnam, and 2) clarify the roles and responsibility of a business to the community or communities in which they do business. Each fellow was also required to submit an evaluation of the United States portion of the program.

USVTC worked extensively with the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington, DC and the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce in holding the events.

For more information, please see our website.

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