



USVTC Update

April – November 2010

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- November 15-16 - USVTC and BSR held "Low Carbon Vietnam 2020 – A Participatory Dialogue Session" in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.
- November 12 - Vietnam announces full participation in TPP negotiations
- October 3-12: State Department Sponsors Climate Change Visitors Program Organized by USVTC
- July 27-28: USVTC and BSR hold workshops in Vietnam on Developing a Low Carbon Economy
- June 12-20: USVTC and STAR hold the Steering Committee Study Mission in Washington, DC, and Los Angeles, CA

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spring 2011: Participants from China, Japan, Indonesia and Australia will come to the United States with a USVTC program being funded by the Department of State.
- 2011: USVTC has received a grant for climate change activities from EDF.

USVTC and BSR Hold Two Sets of Workshops on Low Carbon Economy

On July 27-28 and November 15-16, USVTC, with the support of the GE Foundation and in collaboration with Business for Social Responsibility, the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and the Environment, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, AMCHAM Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, held workshops and a participatory dialogue session in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

The workshops held in July were titled "Developing a Low Carbon Economy." The participatory dialogue session in November was titled "Low Carbon Vietnam 2020."

The November workshop was attended by over 100 participants from the government, think tanks, organizations and businesses interested in climate change issues.

Presenters in July included The Clinton Foundation, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dragon Capital and others.

In November, speakers included the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and the



The crowd at the "Low Carbon Vietnam 2020" participatory dialogue session listens to a presentation.

Environment, Holicum, and others. The keynote speaker was Frank Mantero, the director of corporate citizenship programs for the GE Foundation.

For a complete list of speakers, please see Annex A.

These sessions represent the continuation of USVTC's work on climate change issues in Vietnam.

USVTC has previously held two major conferences regarding climate change. USVTC has also engaged in work on climate change with the Environmental Defense Fund, BSR, GE, and other organizations.

In October 2010, USVTC brought a group to the US to discuss climate change with the Volunteer Visitor Program.

In 2011, USVTC will partner with Baruch College on a project funded by the Department of State. The grant will bring 26 delegates from four countries to the United States and send 14 US delegates to the partner countries. The delegates will discuss issues and best practices related to climate change.

Also, USVTC has received a grant from the Environmental Defense Fund to conduct climate change activities in 2011.

USVTC and Baruch College Awarded Climate Change Grant

Baruch College and The International Center, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit group focusing on issues between the United States and the developing world, announced today that they have been awarded jointly a grant of \$498,165 from the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.

The grant will be used to create the Climate Change Professional Fellows Program, an international fellowship program which will convene professionals from four East Asian and Pacific countries—Australia, China, Indonesia and Japan—and the United States to explore the science, impact, adaptation, mitigation and actions related to climate change.

The program will serve 40 participants, including 14 from the U.S. and 26 from the other participating countries, in three exchanges.

Fellows from abroad will come to the U.S., dividing their time among San Francisco, New York City and Washington, DC. These portions of the program will occur in the spring and fall of 2011. Also, U.S. fellows will travel to the partner countries during a three-week period in the summer of 2011.

USVTC and STAR Hold Steering Committee Study Mission

From June 12-20, USVTC and STAR held a Steering Committee study mission. The study mission took place in Washington, DC, and Los Angeles, CA. The study mission was funded by USAID.

The delegation included 11 Vietnamese officials with technical assistance oversight. The mission was also attended by USAID and USVTC staff.

In DC, the delegation met with the Embassy of Vietnam, the State Department Vietnam desk, the House Ways and Means Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, USAID, the Department of Treasury, the Department of Commerce, and the United States Trade Representative.

In LA, they met with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the Office of the Mayor, and the Port Authority.

The delegation discussed a wide range of issues concerning the overarching relationship between the U.S. and Vietnam and was also able to discuss issues surrounding the implementation of trade guidelines and possibilities for TPP.

The delegation toured the Port of Los Angeles and talked to representatives from Customs and Border Control regarding trade and security issues.

State Department Sponsors Climate Change Visitors Program Organized by USVTC

From October 3-12, 2010 USVTC, sponsored by the Office of International Visitors of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, organized the volunteer visitors program.

The program took place in Sacramento, New Orleans, and Austin. The delegation consisted of eight Vietnamese government officials who met with government officials, experts, and organizations to discuss issues related to climate change.

Activities included California's Climate Change Policy Conference, a discussion with a commercial fisherman in New Orleans regarding the affects of the Macondo oil spill, and a meeting with a Renewable Energy Specialist from the Environmental Defense Fund in Austin.

This project touched on new technology for renewable energy and the farmer's role in reducing their carbon footprint. The visitors were exposed to new financing available in carbon markets.