

# **Transition to a Low Carbon Economy**

A Project for Vietnam

October 6-9, 2010

## **Participants:**

Mr. Dung Hai Dang	Mrs. Hoai Thi Thu Nguyen
Mr. Thanh Vu Dinh	Mrs. Mai Tuyet Tran
Mr. Nam Quang Le	Mr. Tuan Anh Tran
Mr. Dong The Nguyen	Mr. Son Anh Truong

Sponsored by the Office of International Visitors  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Program Officer: Mr. Christopher Schwab

Administered by ECA/PE/V/F/A - Voluntary Visitors Division, WHA/EAP/NEA Branch

Accompanied by the Department of State Language Officers:  
Mr. George D Capps (702) 336-1612  
Ms. Le-Thu Phan (202) 966-9224  
Ms. Alice The T. Glick (408) 368-3017

### **Local Program by New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council**

Ms. Susannah Coolidge, Executive Director  
1215 Prytania Street, Suite 203  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone: (504) 529-1509 (o) / (504) 813-7457 (c)  
Email: susannah@nocdc.com

### **Hotel:**

Omni Royal Crescent  
535 Gravier St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone Numbers:  
(504) 527-0006 / (504) 571-7575 Fax

### **Local Transportation:**

Flagship Limousine, Ltd.  
Phone: (800) 259-6562 or (504) 486-4562



**Louisiana Department Agriculture and Forestry  
5825 Florida Boulevard, Ste. 1023  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
(225) 922-1251  
ccastille@ldaf.state.la.us**

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry is responsible for administering many of the programs and enforcing the regulations that impact every aspect of the state's agriculture and forestry. To best serve the citizens of Louisiana, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry is divided into seven areas of service: Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Agro-Consumer Services, Animal Health Services, Forestry, Management and Finance, Marketing, and Soil and Water Conservation.

The Louisiana Master Farmer Program helps agricultural producers voluntarily address the environmental concerns related to production agriculture, as well as enhance their production and resource management skills that will be critical for the continued viability of Louisiana agriculture. This program involves producers becoming more knowledgeable about environmental stewardship, resource-based production and resource management through a voluntary producer certification process.

**Purpose: As a former researcher with the LSU Ag Center, Dr. Castille will provide an overview of the Louisiana Master Farmer Program and how it helps farmers promote environmental stewardship and conservation-based production. She will also describe the Louisiana Department of Agriculture's role in achieving those same goals.**

*Following the meeting please board the bus for the drive back to New Orleans. You are free to have lunch and enjoy the remainder of the day.*

### **Friday, October 8**

**8:15 a.m.**      *Please board the van outside the hotel to go to the first meeting.*

**8:30-9:30 a.m.**      **Mr. Ricky Spriggens  
Commercial Shrimper  
(504) 975-9525**

**Meeting location:**    **NOCDC offices  
1215 Prytania St., Ste. 203  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
(504) 529-1509**

Mr. Ricky Spriggens has worked as a commercial shrimper and fisherman for the past seven years. Since the Macondo blowout in April of this year, Mr. Spriggens and his colleagues in the industry have dealt with the effects of the largest accidental marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry, which resulted in the closing of fishing

areas and the use of freshwater diversions in order to prevent oil from seeping into sensitive coastal wetlands.

**Purpose: Mr. Spriggens will discuss how the BP oil spill and other environmental concerns have impacted the local fishing industry.**

*Following the meeting, please board the van to go the next appointment.*

**10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.**                    **Mr. Daniel Nguyen, Environmental Justice Coordinator and Viet Village Urban Farm Project Manager  
Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation (MQVN CDC)  
4626 Alcee Fortier Blvd.  
(504) 255-9170  
danielnguyen@mqvncdc.org**

MQVN Community Development Corporation was established by community leaders of the Mary Queen of Viet Nam Church in 2006 to assist Vietnamese-Americans in New Orleans East rebuild their lives and their community and to contribute to the rebuilding of a more equitable New Orleans. MQVN CDC's projects include affordable housing, business development, community organizing, health care services, an intercultural charter school, social services and a community farm.

The Vietnamese-American community in New Orleans East has maintained an extensive network of community gardens since their migration to the area from Vietnam in the 1970's. These gardens produced food that was not readily available in the area at the time and was used by the growers to feed their families. Surpluses were sold at an informal Saturday morning market. These gardens were destroyed by the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina. Since the storm MQVN CDC, Tulane University, and the University of Montana Environmental Studies Program have been working to re-establish these practices in a more formalized and developed setting. A design team and engineering firm is assisting the community with the design of the environmental infrastructural systems needed to support an organic urban-farming operation. The goal is to be a model for low-tech, sustainable site development by using bio-filtration of water and alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power. The Viet Village integrates pest management, composting, crop rotation, and cover cropping among other organic practices. The twentyeight- acre farm will combine small-plot family gardens, larger commercial plots for New Orleans restaurants and grocery stores, and an area for raising goats and chickens. The market will serve as a community resource and economic catalyst. The most significant environmental issue for the site is the movement of water; it frequently flooded during storms. A series of sub-watersheds can supply water for irrigation independently if there is a break in the larger system through the use of a portable pumping system. The main power supply for the pumping of water will be a windmill and water tower backed up by electrical pumps.

**Purpose: Mr. Nguyen will outline the plans for the Viet Village Urban Farm and the how the farm aims to be environmentally sustainable by using water efficiently and recycling waste. He will also take you on a tour of the farm's site.**

*Following the meeting you will have time for lunch. Daniel Nguyen recommends Dong Phuong Restaurant nearby.*

**12:45 p.m.** *After lunch, please board the van to return to the hotel. You will have time to relax before the next meeting.*

**2:30 p.m.** *Please board the bus to go to the final meeting. The campus map in your packet will indicate the location of the Communication's/Music Complex.*

**3:00 - 4:00 p.m.** **Dr. Robert Thomas, Professor & Loyola Chair in Environmental Communication & Director, Center for Environmental Communication  
Loyola University  
6363 St. Charles Ave.  
Communications/Music Complex, Rm. 327  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
(504) 865-2107  
rathomas@loyno.edu**

Dr. Robert A. Thomas is an academician, a business/environmental community liaison, and a media source for environmental news. Dr. Thomas is professor of Mass Communication, holds the Loyola Chair in Environmental Communications, and is the Founding Director of the Center for Environmental Communication at Loyola University New Orleans. He is Senior Environmental Advisor to the Government Policy and Regulatory Affairs Team of Moore & Van Allen PLLC, Charlotte, NC, and is a member of an environmental center design team at Eskew+Dumez+Ripple in New Orleans.

Dr. Thomas's activities at Loyola include an active teaching program in environmental communication and biology, many activities relating to coastal issues communication, working in the realm of environmental intervention where industry and communities collide, environmental communication programs in tropical areas (principally Belize, Trinidad, Guatemala, and the eastern Caribbean), nature-based tourism, and environmental education and landscaping.

Loyola University New Orleans is a Catholic Institution that emphasizes the Jesuit tradition of educating the whole person. It is open to students of all faiths.

**Purpose: To learn how the media works with government to disseminate information on new rules and regulations pertaining to low carbon emissions.**

*Following the meeting the van will take you back to the hotel. You are free to enjoy the rest of the day.*

**Saturday, October 9**

**12:00 noon**    *Please board the van outside the hotel to go to the airport.*

**2:05 p.m.**     *Depart New Orleans on American flight 1935 to Houston, Texas.*

We are here to facilitate your visit, so please call us anytime if you have any questions or comments. We hope you bring back lasting memories of New Orleans, its people and its ambience.

Sincerely,

Susannah Coolidge  
Executive Director

cc:                Mr. Christopher Schwab, DOS