

Vietnam UPDATE
January 2009 - July 2009

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

- **August 24-28: Three entrepreneurship seminars with Hanoi, HCMC and Danang business associations under a Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs grant.**
- **August 3-8: David Gantz's HCMC Law University training session and seminar on WTO case study under GE Foundation grant**

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **July 21-22: Andy Shoyer's working visit with MOIT on Transpacific partnership, MONRE on Climate change, and MPI on bilateral investment treaty, sponsored with the support of the GE Foundation**
- **July 16-18: Deputy USTR Ambassador Demetrios Marantis working visit to Hanoi**
- **July 20: Dong Nai and STAR ceremony for eGazette, sponsored with support from the GE Foundation**
- **April 27: USVTC, EDF, and the National Assembly hold a second conference on Climate Change.**

**Climate Change Conference:
Opportunities for Vietnam**

USVTC and the Environmental Defense Fund held a second climate change conference April 27, 2009, this one hosted by the Vietnamese National Assembly. The event reached 130 people, including members and staff of the National Assembly, Vietnamese government representatives and the international community.

Vice Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ngo Quang Xuan, hosted and opened the seminar. The seminar discussed how Vietnam can take advantage of international climate change negotiations and domestic policies for attracting investment opportunities.

Dr. Tran Thuc, the Director General of the Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology & Environment, MONRE, and others reviewed policies and laws, including the National Target Plan for Response to Climate Change, and presented scenarios for the future. Presentations were also made about India, China and Mexico.



Mr. Goldmark also reviewed scientific data and consensus that all countries, including developing countries, will need to commit to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to reach "safe zone" by 2050 and opportunities this presents.

In closing, Ambassador Xuan noted the urgency for the National Assembly to address climate change, since Vietnam is already suffering some of its consequences.

EDF and USVTC experts also held official meetings with several Vietnamese government ministries to discuss topics and comments from the Seminar and met with government experts to discuss methods to reduce emissions and attract green investments. The delegation met with representatives from several embassies, including the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.

Soccer Program in Malaysia Helps Girls' Soccer Development

A recent program conducted by The International Center's Sports Corps Division focusing on women's soccer in Malaysia has helped lead the way for girl's soccer to be included in the Malaysia games. Programs have been carried out through USVTC in Vietnam as well as Malaysia with generous support of US Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

The call came from Assistant Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Jahid Jahim. Minister Jahim made the suggestion after being approached by the Sabah Women's Football Association, which worked with USVTC on its programs in Malaysia.

"The Sabah Women's Football Association has come to me to suggest that the sport be included in Sukma. I think women's football is getting increasingly popular in the country and deserves to be developed further," said Jahim.

Karen Willoughby, Director of the Sports Corps Division, said the goal of USVTC's programs is to help build strong people to people relations between Malaysia and United States. Willoughby also said the inclusion of women's soccer in the games and the possible inclusion in school curricula would help contribute girls' education and their personal development.

Rule of Law Program Wraps Up Packed First Quarter

USVTC-EF and STAR Vietnam completed the first quarter of a one-year grant from the GE Foundation, for their program on the international trade commitments rule of law in Vietnam.



Activities from the first quarter included 20 Workshops with Michael McNamer for the Vietnamese National Assembly, governmental ministries and organizations, regional authorities, and enterprises on the public comment provisions of the Law on Law and 6 Workshops and meetings with speaker David Spooner on U.S. Public Comment process - HCM Law School, VCCI, HCMC Bar Association. The program is also working on the creation of a case studies book on WTO cases particularly relevant to Vietnam. A great accomplishment is also the establishment of electronic eGazettes for six provinces in Vietnam. As part of the program to look at the next generation of trade agreements, the program has been meeting and working on providing information and technical assistance on FTA's such as the p4 or Trans Pacific Partnership, the Bi-lateral Investment Treaty, and climate change negotiations.

Activities also included a trip by Andy W. Shoyer, a Lawyer and Partner from Sidley Austin LLP, to

EMAIL usvtc-ef@usvtc.org WEB www.usvtc.org

WASHINGTON, DC
1025 Vermont Ave., NW
Suite 727
Washington, DC 20005, USA
TEL 202.263.5630 FAX 202.637.2007

HANOI
Opera Business Center
60 Ly Thai To Street, Suite 403
Hanoi, Vietnam
TEL 844.936.1700 FAX 844.936.1701

a project of the International Center

Vietnam in July to share his expertise on the progress and experience with the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT); issues leading up to Copenhagen on climate changes as well as giving the latest updates on the U.S. and global trends on climate change; and the recent bill passed by the US House of Representatives, as well as U.S. policy and substantive issues on FTAs and the trans-pacific partnership (TPP). Participants were leaders and negotiation team from various ministries such as the Office of the Government, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Planning and Investment and Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Entrepreneurship Study Mission Travels to California and Oklahoma

Twenty three Vietnamese business leaders traveled to San Francisco and Tulsa as part of the Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training and Exchange Program. The program took place February 8-27.



The program is conducted pursuant to a grant from the US Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Participants were identified as fellows during the delegation, which focused on promoting the best practices in business.

Also, the delegates participated in group activities at businesses in San Francisco and Tulsa, Oklahoma. At Techshop, in San Francisco, the group was divided into four teams charged with making a product in two hours using the tools provided at the shop. The group also brainstormed with the staff at Techshop about ways to implement their business in Vietnam.

In Oklahoma, the group met with representatives from StudioBlue and a local Harley Davidson dealer. These visits, as well as the visit to Techshop, coincided with the Fastrac program implemented during the delegation, which taught business skills, such as teamwork, to the delegation.

After the program, each participant submitted a report detailing their experience and applying what they had learned.

For more information, please see our website.