



FIRST VEF ALUMNI CONFERENCE

AGENDA

Theme: *Opportunities and Challenges*
Date: Friday, December 12, 2008
Venue: Le Van Thiem Meeting Room, Vietnam National University-Hanoi (VNU-Hanoi), 19 Le Thanh Tong, Hanoi
Co-Sponsors: VNU-HN and EQuest Academy

DAY 1 – Thursday, December 11

Afternoon

- Arrival in Hanoi
- Out-of-Town Conference participants check in at Hoa Binh Hotel, 27 Ly Thuong Kiet Street, Hanoi

DAY 2 – Friday, December 12

07:30 – 08:30 **Registration at Le Van Thiem Meeting Room, VNU-Hanoi**
19 Le Thanh Tong, Hanoi (Alumni only)

08:30 – 09:15 **Welcome & Introductions:** Prof. Vo Van Toi, Executive Director, VEF

- Speech: Dr. Marilyn Pattillo, Interim Chairperson, VEF Board of Directors
- Speech: HE Virginia E. Palmer, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy
- Speech: Dr. Nguyen Quan, Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

09:15 – 10:30 **Session 1: Opportunities and Challenges in Industry and in Entrepreneurial Endeavors**

- Market potential of S&T in Vietnam
- Possibilities for creating start-up companies
 - Needs
 - Fields
 - Level of skills needed
- What VEF Alumni have done

Co-Chairs: Dr. Nguyen Viet Hung, Deputy General Director, Petro Vietnam Automation and Information Technology Company (VEF Alumnus)/ Mr. Nguyen Thanh Son, CEO, EQuest Academy (VEF Alumnus)

Speakers: Invited guests representing a state-owned company and the private sector

- Mr. Tran Van Hoa, General Manager, Division of Training and HR Development, Petro Vietnam
- Mr. Dang Thanh Tam, Chairman, Saigon Investment group

10:30 – 10:45 **Tea Break**

- 10:45 – 12:00 **Session 2: Funding Opportunities from Government and Non-Government Organizations**
- Sources of funding
 - Examples: Work of VEF Alumni in Public Health
- Moderator/Chairs: Dr. Ngo Duc Anh, Research Fellow, University of Queensland (VEF Alumnus); Ms. Pham Thi Minh Tam, IT Project Manager, HSBC (VEF Alumnus)
- Speakers: Dr. Phan Hong Son, Executive Director, VNSF; Mr. Eren Zink, Scientific Programme Coordinator, the International Foundation for Science (IFS) (Sweden)
- 12:00–13:00 **Lunch at VNU Venue Hosted by EQuest Academy**
- 13:00–14:00 **Session 3: Research & Academia: Challenges and Opportunities**
- Sources of funding
 - What VEF Alumni have done
- Moderator/Chair: Dr. Ngo Duc Anh, Research Fellow, University of Queensland (VEF Alumnus)
- Speakers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Trong Quat, Vice President, VNU-Hanoi; Prof. Dr. Nguyen Van Toan, President, Hue University; Dr. Nguyen Quoc Vong, Director, Center for International Development, Hanoi University of Agriculture.
- 14:00–15:00 **Session 4: Mentors and Research Advisors--Alumni Ties**
- Moderator/Chair: Dr. Nguyen Viet Hung, Deputy General Director, Petro Vietnam Automation and Information Technology Company (VEF Alumnus)
- Speakers: Alumni mentors and research advisors: Asst. Prof. Hasan Davulcu, Arizona State University; Asst. Prof. Rena Sue Day, University of Texas School of Public Health; Prof. Seymour Dean Van Gundy, University of California, Riverside.
- 15:00-15:15 **Tea Break**
- 15:15-16:15 **Session 5: Training of the Trainers (TOT)**
- TOT programs developed by VEF Visiting Scholar Alumni
- Moderator/Chair: Dr. Ngo Thi Phuong Dung, Deputy Director, Institute of Research and Development in Biotechnology, Can Tho University (VEF Visiting Scholar Alumnus)
- Speakers: Dr. Ngo Thi Phuong Dung, Can Tho University; Dr. Dinh Thanh Viet, the University of Danang, Vietnam; Dr. Ngo Thi Xuyen, Hanoi University of Agriculture (HAU)
- 16:15-17:15 **Round Table and Wrap-Up**
- Moderators: Prof. Vo Van Toi and Dr. Ngo Thi Phuong Dung
- Panel:
- For the Vietnamese Government: Dr. Nguyen Xuan Vang, Director General, Vietnam International Education Development, MOET
- For U.S. Vietnam Relations: HE Former Ambassador Nguyen Tam Chien
- For the Academia: Dr. Do Van Xe, Vice-Rector, Can Tho University
- For Corporate Sector: Mr. Thai Van Men, President/CEO, ITA Group - Tan Tao Investment & Industry Corporation
- For VEF: Dr. Steve Maxner, Member of VEF Board of Directors
- Presentation of Certificates of Achievement to VEF Alumni**
- Closing Remarks:** Dr. Marilyn Pattillo, Interim Chairperson, VEF Board of Directors
- 17:15-18:00 **Free Networking**
- 18:30-20:00 **Gala Dinner: Sao Bien Restaurant, 13 Ly Thuong Kiet, Ha Noi**
- **Speech by** Dr. Ngo Thi Xuyen, Advisor, Advanced Training Program in Crop Science between Hanoi University of Agriculture (HAU) and UC Davis