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### **55 more VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars to study in the United States**

On June 13, 2012, a press meeting was held at the Vietnam Waste Solutions Company, Ho Chi Minh City, in which Dr. Isaac F. Silvera, Chairman of the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) Board of Directors announced that in Academic Year 2012-2013, 49 Fellows and 6 Visiting Scholars will begin their programs at 34 leading U.S. universities.



*Mr. Kevin Moore, Managing Director of Vietnam Waste Solutions (VWS), guiding VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars on a tour of VWS facilities (Photo by Hà Huy Hiệp/Vietnam+)*

49 new VEF Fellows will be pursuing graduate programs in various fields of science, technology, and engineering. The fields include biological and biomedical sciences, computer science, epidemiology, food science and technology, forestry, genetics, immunology, plant sciences, statistics, and engineering. The specializations in the field of engineering include aerospace, chemical, civil and environmental, electrical and computer, industrial and systems, materials, and mechanical engineering.

The new Visiting Scholars will pursue postdoctoral training programs at leading U.S. universities for up to 12 months, in the fields of biochemistry, computer science, geology, mathematics, mechanical engineering, and molecular biology.

Before their departure for the United States, the new VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars attended a Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) program, from June 7-13, 2012 in Da Lat (Lam Dong) and Ho Chi Minh City. On June 13, 2012, they had a visit to Vietnam Waste Solutions.

Dr. Lynne A. McNamara, VEF Executive Director highly values the intellectual and academic merits of the Fellows and Visiting Scholars of this cohort.

She also shared that under the Fellowship Program, launched in 2003, VEF has supported 424 Fellows to pursue graduate programs at U.S. universities. Since the first year of the Visiting Scholar Program in 2007, 38 Visiting Scholars have been sent to the United States for post-doctorate level programs.

The VEF Fellowship Program and the VEF Visiting Scholar Program are two of the outstanding educational programs offered by VEF in its efforts to build the relationship between Vietnam and the United States through educational exchange and capacity building.

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) was established by the U.S. Congress in 2000. VEF is governed by a thirteen-member Board of Directors: two U.S. Senators, two U.S. Representatives, three U.S. cabinet members, and six members from the U.S. citizenry appointed by the U.S. President.

VEF receives an annual budget of U.S. \$5 million from the U.S. Congress until 2018.