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PRESS RELEASE

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INTERVIEWS FOR 2009 VEF FELLOWSHIPS

Hanoi, August 14, 2008 – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) announces the working visit to Vietnam by a delegation of U.S. scientists from August 15-25, 2008, to interview candidates for VEF Fellowships for the 2009 Cohort, which would begin graduate studies in the United States in the fall of 2009.

During this final round of the Fellowship selection process, the U.S. scientists will conduct oral exams/interviews to select the most talented candidates for the 2009 cohort of VEF Fellows. 85 VEF Fellowship candidates have been chosen from more than 1,400 applicants through various rounds of the selection process. In addition, at the request of Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), the U.S. scientists will also interview 32 candidates for the Vietnam International Education Development (VIED) scholarship program of the MOET, which is emulating the application and selection process of VEF. While in Vietnam, the U.S. delegation will also conduct scientific lectures at universities and research institutes in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

A press conference regarding the oral exams/interviews for the 2009 VEF Fellowship cohort will be held on Sunday, August 17, at 5:30 p.m. at the Sofitel Plaza Hotel in Hanoi.

Referring to these activities, Dr. Vo Van Toi, Executive Director of VEF, said, "VEF continues to play an important role of assisting Vietnam to further

develop in science and technology. With the close cooperation of the U.S. National Academies and the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training, we will select a new group of outstanding and ambitious young Vietnamese and give them superb educational opportunities to study for graduate degrees at first-class American universities. Through this and other VEF programs, we hope to transfer our knowhow regarding the selection process to MOET and help establish novel and sustainable capacity-building in science and technology for Vietnam.”

VEF (www.vef.gov) is a special initiative of the U.S. Congress to bring the U.S. and Vietnam closer through educational exchanges related to science and technology. VEF is governed by a Board of Directors whose thirteen members consist of three U.S. Cabinet members—Secretary of State, Secretary of Education, and Secretary of Treasury; two U.S. Senators; two U.S. Representatives; and six Presidential appointees. The Foundation is in its fifth year of operations and incorporates assistance from the U.S. National Academies in developing and executing VEF programs. As its flagship activity, the VEF Fellowship program has placed 268 Fellows at 69 top U.S. graduate institutions, mostly for doctoral degrees. VEF Fellows are required to return to Vietnam after completing their academic programs in the U.S.