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### **VEF's Pre-Departure Orientation Program in Vietnam**

QĐND – VEF, an independent U.S. Federal Government agency, has just held Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) Program for Fellows and Visiting Scholars before they depart for the United States to pursue their programs. The VEF delegation, including 49 Fellows and 6 scholars, who won the VEF Fellowships and Visiting Scholar Grants for graduate and postdoctoral training programs in Academic Year 2012-2013 at 34 top-tier U.S. universities, was led by Dr. Lynne McNamara, VEF Executive Director.



*VEF Fellows listening to Vietnam Waste Solutions Managing Director's introduction about modern waste treatment process at Da Phuoc (Binh Chanh, Ho Chi Minh City)*

After the team-building activities in Da Lat, on June 13, the VEF delegation returned Ho Chi Minh City and visited as well as had an open discussion with leaders and staff members of Vietnam Waste Solutions (VWS). These activities helped the VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars understand more about their roles and responsibilities in protecting the environment, nourishing their will and determination to study, and come back to make contributions to the development of their homeland.

VEF began its operation in 2003 and has supported 424 Vietnamese nationals to study at 84 top-tier U.S. universities. VEF receives an annual budget of U.S. \$5 million from the U.S. Congress from 2003 until 2018.