

Preparation Meeting

Oral Exam/Interview Briefing for 2010 Candidates

Vietnam Education Foundation
June 2009

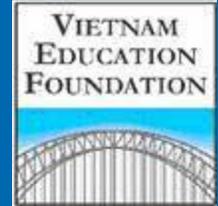


Introductions

VEF Team

- **From U.S. headquarters, Washington, D.C.:**
 - **Dr. Lynne McNamara, Acting Executive Director**
 - **Ms. Sandarshi Gunawardena, Program Officer**
 - **Ms. Lana Walbert, Director of Finance, Accounting and Administration**
- **From Hanoi, Vietnam, Field office:**
 - **Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Country Director**
 - **Ms. Binh Dang, Program Manager**
 - **Ms. Le Nguyen, Program Assistant**
 - **Ms. Mai Nguyen, Program Assistant**

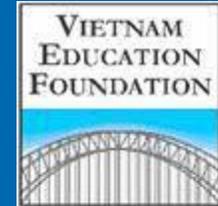
Introductions: VEF Fellows



Cohort 2009 from Ho Chi Minh City

1. **Vu Thi Thu Thuy- University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston**
2. **Ho Thuy Nhan- Michigan State University**

Welcome to VEF!



- **Purpose of today's meeting**
 - To explain the VEF selection process
 - To prepare you for the upcoming oral exam/interview and answer your questions
 - To give you a chance to interact with and learn from the experience of our current Fellows
 - To collect your documents

VEF Cohort 2010 Selection Process



- **ROUND 1: Qualification screening. Done**
 - Screening of over 400 applications

- **ROUND 2: Technical Review. Done**
 - GRE score of 1050 and above – guarantee to sit for the oral exam/interview
 - Review of scientific content of applications

- **ROUND 3: Oral Exam/Interview. To be done**
 - Oral exams/interviews of finalists (VEF + MOET/VIED) by expert panels of U.S. professors
 - Hanoi: August 3 – 4, 2009
 - Ho Chi Minh City: August 6 – 7, 2009

VEF Cohort 2010

Oral Exam/Interview



- Conducted by 11 American professors and scientists

DO NOT CONTACT U.S. INTERVIEWERS

DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

This will lead to disqualification.

- Individual oral exam/interview format:
 - Panel of 2 U.S. scientists/professors selected by U.S. National Academies
 - Notes taken by 1 native English speaker

VEF Cohort 2010 Oral Exam (cont'd.)



- **Oral exam session:** up to 45 minutes of Q&A
- **Wide-ranging questions** on your personal and professional background and knowledge of, and experience with, research
- **Problem-solving exercises** might be included. You may be asked to use the whiteboard.
- **English** is the only language.
- After you leave the room, panel prepares **internal evaluation** and makes **unanimous decision**.
- Selection **recommendations** submitted to VEF.
- **Final nominees** announced by early September.

ARE YOU THE WINNER?

YOU!

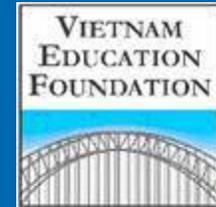
The Perfect Candidate!



- **Accomplishments – Confirmed**
- **Intellectual capabilities – Confirmed**
- **Communication – Important Factor**
- **Persuasive Skills – Important Factor**



The Winning Formula



- **Know what interviewers are looking for: Future Scientific Contributor and Leader for Vietnam**
- **Believe in yourself. Be positive. Smile.**
- **Dress in business attire. (No jeans or tennis shoes)**
- **Speak precisely. Organize your ideas, i.e. using A,B,C and 1, 2, 3.**
- **Tell the truth. Don't make up answers.**
- **Look at their eyes. Sit up straight. Breathe slowly, calmly, and confidently.**



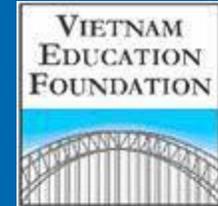


Communication techniques

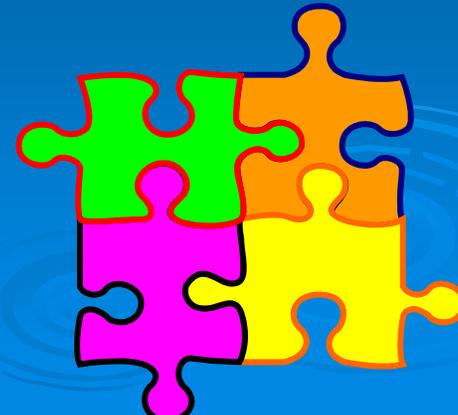
- Can you please repeat the question?
- Can you restate your question?
 - OK, then you mean....
 - Ah, yes, if I understand you correctly, you are asking about....
- May I show you on the white board?
- Well, I don't know about that particular aspect, but I do know about
- Hmm, let me think...



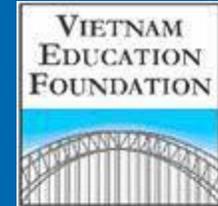
IMPORTANT



- **Before you leave home---**
 - Be clean! Take a bath. Comb your hair. Clean/brush your teeth. Clean your nails, etc. etc.
- **Come to the exam site 45 minutes early to prepare yourself.**
- **Review your own Statement of Purpose beforehand.**
- **Know about the U.S. universities and professors you have named in your application.**
- **Greet the interviewers. Use a firm handshake. Smile confidently.**
- **Say “Thank You” at the end.**

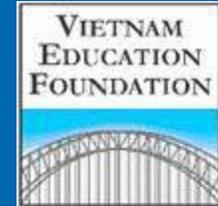


FOR UPDATES from VEF



- Visit the VEF website everyday.
- Keep your email inbox open and available to receive messages. Check your bulk/junk mailbox.
- Check your email daily and respond promptly.
- If needed, email VEF (vef2010@vef.gov) or call VEF: 04 936 3670





Q & A



Last Year's Oral Exam Experience 2009 Fellows - HCMC



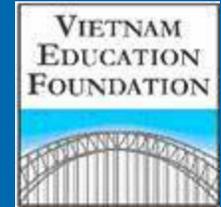
Last Year's Oral Exam Experience **2009 Fellows - Hanoi**



Administration



- **Review and Collection of your documents**
- **Reimbursement of GRE test fees for candidates with GRE score of 1100 & higher**
 - **Only for test date later than August 2008**

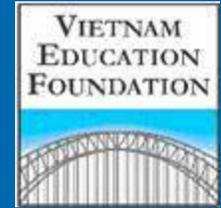


Instructions

1. Follow the sequence on the check-list to organize your documents for submission to VEF.
2. You must submit **SIX** identical sets of documents (one notarized set plus five copies of the notarized set.)
3. All pages must be in white A4 size. No stapled sheets and envelopes will be accepted.
4. Use a black metal paper clip to hold each set together.
5. The VEF staff will check for authenticity of the documents. Any falsehood will disqualify you from the VEF Fellowship competition forever.
6. All submitted documents will become the possession of VEF and will **NOT** be returned to you.

Check List

1 original + 5 copies



1. VEF online application
2. Notarized, English translation of transcripts and diplomas from your undergraduate studies.
3. Notarized, English translation of transcripts and diplomas from your graduate studies (if any).
4. Your TOEFL score report. (OK to submit all copies)
5. Your GRE score report. (OK to submit all copies)
6. Three letters of recommendation in English. Please do not keep letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes.
7. Notarized, English translation of awards and/or academic certificates (if any).
8. Do you have 6 sets total, with all pages in white, A4 size?



WE WISH YOU THE BEST!

THANK YOU!