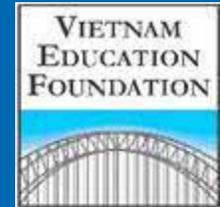


# Preparation Meeting

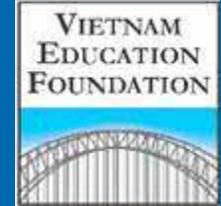
## **Oral Exam Briefing for 2009 Candidates**

Vietnam Education Foundation  
June 2008



# Meeting Agenda

- **8:30**      **Introductions**
- **8:35**      **Preparation for Oral Exam**
- **9:30**      **Oral exam experience of VEF Fellows 2008**
- **10:30**     **Administrative procedures:**
  - **Review & Collection of materials**
  - **Reimbursement of GRE test fees**

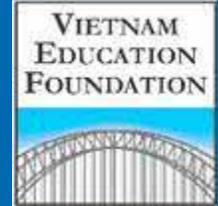


# Introductions

## VEF Team

- **From U.S. headquarters:**
  - **Dr. Lynne McNamara, Deputy Executive Director**
  - **Mr. Joe MacAde, Program Officer**
  - **Ms. Lana Walbert, Director of Finance, Accounting, and Administration**
- **From Hanoi, Vietnam, field office:**
  - **Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Country Director**
  - **Ms. Le Nguyen, Program Assistant**
  - **Mr. Tu Ngo, IT expert**

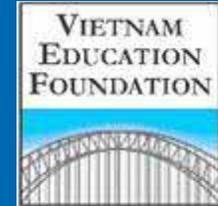
# Introductions: VEF Fellows



## Cohort 2008

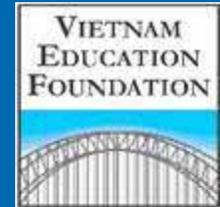
- **NGUYEN Duc Thanh**, Ph.D. student in Biomedical Engineering, Princeton University
- **DOAN Trung Kien**, Master student in Civil Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic University
- **TRAN Thi Minh Duc**, Ph.D. student in Biology, Duke University

# Welcome to VEF!



- **Purpose of today's meeting**
  - To explain the VEF selection process
  - To prepare you for the upcoming oral exam 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

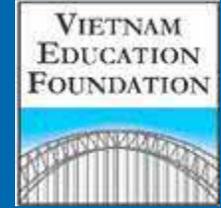
# VEF Cohort 2009 Selection Process



- **ROUND 1: Qualification screening. Done**
  - Screening of over 1500 applications
  - ETS Major Field Test in subject area of ~400 applicants
  
- **ROUND 2: Technical Review. Done**
  - Selection of top 50% scoring on Major Field Test in each broad subject field
  - Review of scientific contents of applications
  - GRE score of 1050 and above – guarantee to sit for the oral exam/interview
  
- **ROUND 3: Oral Exam/Interview. To be done**
  - Oral exams/interviews of finalists (VEF + MOET) by expert panels
  - HANOI: August 18-19
  - Ho Chi Minh City: August 21-22

# VEF Cohort 2009

## Oral Exam



- Conducted by 14 American professors and scientists
- Assisted by Vietnamese professors and scientists
- **DO NOT CONTACT U.S. OR VIETNAMESE INTERVIEWERS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY—**
  - **This will lead to disqualification.**
- Individual oral exam format:
  - Panel of 2 U.S. scientists/professors selected by National Academies
  - Assisted by 1 Vietnamese scientist/professor
  - Notes taken by 1 native English speaker

# VEF Cohort 2009

## Oral Exam (cont'd.)

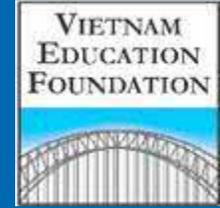


- **Oral exam session:** up to 45 minutes of Q&A
- **Wide-ranging questions** on your personal and professional background
- **Problem-solving exercises** might be included. You may be asked to use the whiteboard.
- **English** is the only language.
- After you leave the room, panel prepares **internal evaluation and report.**
- Selection **recommendation** sent to VEF Board for approval.
- **Final results** expected to be released in 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 they 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.



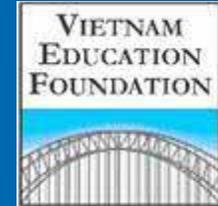


# Communication techniques

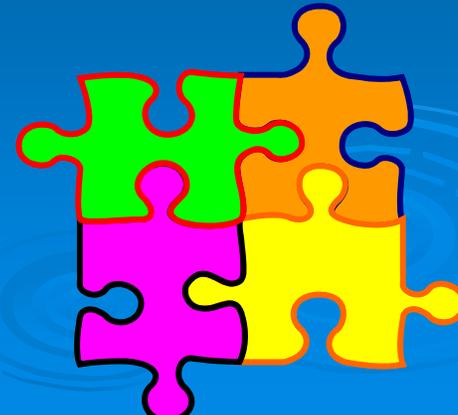
- Can you please repeat the question?
- Can you restate your question?
  - OK, then you mean....
  - Ah, yes, if I understand you correctly, you are asking about....
- May I show you on the white board?
- Well, I don't know about that particular aspect, but I do know about ....
- Hmm, let me think...



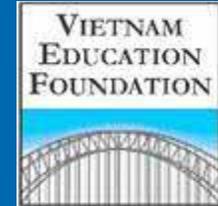
# IMPORTANT



- **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.**

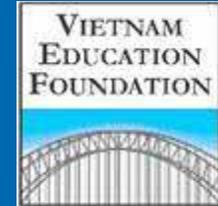


# FOR UPDATES from VEF



- 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 ([vef2009@vef.gov](mailto:vef2009@vef.gov)) or call VEF: 04 936 3670

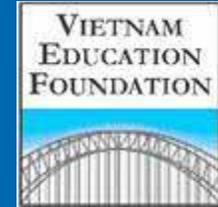




# Q & A

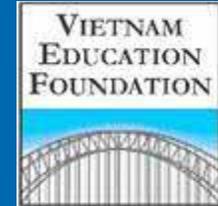


# Last Year's Oral Exam Experience 2008 Fellows

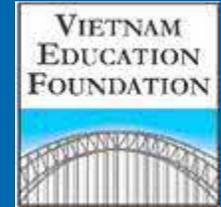


- **VO Thi Cam Van**, Ph.D. student in Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania
- **HONG Trung Dung**, Ph.D. student in Computer Science, Purdue University
- **VU Thi Kim Hanh**, Ph.D. student in Biology, University of Utah

# 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 2007**

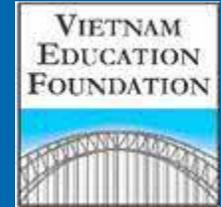


# Instructions

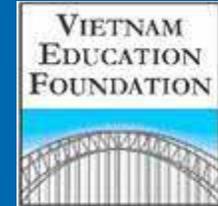
1. Follow the sequence on the check-list to organize your documents for submission to VEF.
2. You must submit **SIX** identical sets of documents (one notarized set plus five copies of the notarized set.)
3. All pages must be in white A4 size. No stapled sheets and envelopes will be accepted.
4. Use 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!**