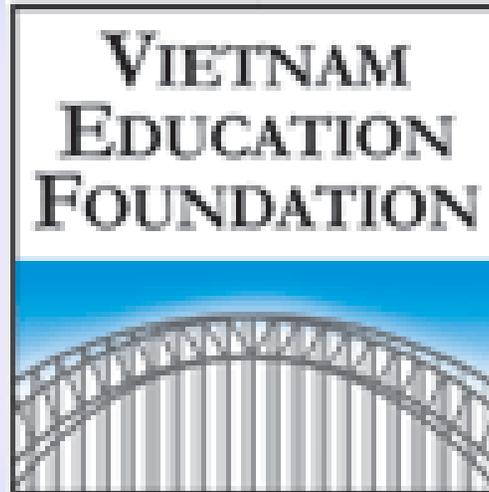


Training of the Trainers program made by the first Visiting Scholar cohort of 2007



Ngo Thi Phuong Dung, PhD
Deputy Director of BiRDI
Can Tho University
Can Tho City, Vietnam





Dr. Viet Thanh Dinh
 Electric Power Engineering
 Washington State University
 University of Danang



Dr. Xuyen Thi NGO
 Plant Pathology
 University of California, Riverside
 Hanoi Agricultural University



Dr. Nguyen Nguyen Pham TRAN
 Computation Quantum Chemistry
 University of Utah
 Vietnam National University, HCM



Dr. Minh Thi Le PHAN
 Magnetism for Biomedical Application
 Northeastern University
 Hanoi Medical University



Dr. Linh Thi Hong NGUYEN
 Applied mathematics
 Princeton University
 Vietnam National University, HCM



Dr. Viet Xuan Hoang NGUYEN
 Power system Engineering
 Iowa State University
 Hanoi University of Technology



Dr. Trung Linh NGUYEN
 Biomedical Engineering
 Vanderbilt University
 Vietnam National University, Hanoi



Dr. Ut Ngoc VU
 Biodiversity of Aquatic Organisms
 Michigan State University
 Cantho University



Dr. Dao Thi Anh TRUONG
 Teaching Physical Experiments
 University of Massachusetts
 Institute of Physics and Electronics, Hanoi



Dr. Hien Luong Thi NGUYEN
 Structural Stability and Technical
 Diagnosis
 Florida Atlantic University
 Vietnam National University, HCM



Dr. Hoang Xuan TRINH
 Biophysics
 Pennsylvania State University
 Institute of Physics and Electronics, Hanoi



Dr. Dung Thi Phuong NGO
 Food Biotechnology
 University of California, David
 Cantho University



General overview





Visiting Scholar Program (VSP)

VSP, which supports Vietnamese nations, who already hold a doctorate, to further develop their professional skills via studies, research, and/or observational activities at leading U.S. academic institutions. Upon returning to Vietnam, the Visiting Scholar (VS) must use the knowledge and skills acquired in the U.S. to train others. In this way, the VEF VSP is a training-of-trainers (TOT) program

Visiting Scholars

- The first cohort of VEF VSP debuted in the Fall of 2007 with 12 post-doctoral Vietnamese nationals, in majors: Agricultural Science (3), Physics (2), Electrical Engineering (2), Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.
- All Visiting Scholars are university instructors or researchers at research institutes in Vietnam. 5 VS had a short training period less than 1 year and 7 had a program of 1 year (including 1 case prolongs until August 2009).



Essential issues of TOT activities





Remarks

- The 12 VS participate in self-arranged professional development programs at 12 different U.S. universities, but having the same ultimate aim, the implementation of TOT program. We all are always eager to keep abreast of new developments in science and technology. We are confident that we can derive maximum benefit when offered any opportunities that are tremendous value to us and to our home universities upon our return.
- In fact, during a training period in the U.S., we have already initiated TOT somehow. Up to now, some initial results have been recently obtained and some other activities are still in progress.

Teaching activities

- Participate in establishing, modifying and improving the training programs and teaching methods for undergraduate and graduate education, particularly for the new advanced training programs at the international education standard cooperated with the U.S. universities.
- Compose, develop and update syllabi, lecture notes, practical handouts of the existing and new courses.
- Teach students in undergraduate and graduate programs as well as train junior lecturers and then they can serve as substitutes in lecturing in the future.
- Invite the U.S. lecturers coming to Vietnam to teach partly or entirely on some courses.
- Contribute to a collection of teaching materials and reference sources (purchase / copy textbooks and handouts, propose lists of new literatures and teaching laboratory equipment).

Research activities

- Organize scientific workshops and seminar meetings on specialized research topics at home universities as well as at local/other provincial institutions.
- Apply and train other researchers about new and improved techniques in the current experimental works, sequentially, provide comprehensive assistance in technology transfer into practice.
- Support other colleagues and jointly develop proposals as well as implement research projects at institutional and international levels.
- Supervise and conduct Ph.D., MSc. and BSc. graduation research theses.
- Keep regular contacts and co-operate with leading local companies/producers, this makes it a convenient means to exchange ideas, apply testing trial and transfer scientific findings to the entrepreneurs.
- Consult and jointly develop to organize and standardize research laboratories bit by bit.



Network activities (at regional/national/international levels)

- Implement TOT program not only in home institutions but also in other universities and institutions as well as in local installations involved.
- Take a role as (vice)-coordinators and/or key scientists in some training and teaching collaboration projects.
- Deliver seminars in conferences and meetings.
- Prepare and publish papers / research reports / oral and poster presentations for (national & international) journals, proceedings and conferences.
- Create websites to share and update information.
- Share experience and update information with young researchers and students to enhance chances of application for higher education and/or short training in the U.S., funding from international / national budgets.

Opportunities

- All VS absolutely agree that what have learned and gained in the VEF VSP are extremely useful. The continuity of programmatic supports and very well-organized systems and management by the VEF, and with the same aspiration, VS undoubtedly try the best to pursue the intended TOT plan effectively.
- All VS are staff members in universities and research institutes, having the high advantages to involve much and actively in the academia.
- The TOT receives the enthusiastic support and strongly sympathy at home institutions that have good working conditions. One of the essential strategies of development in home institutes has the same function of TOT.
- The VSP made in the U.S. is very professional, attractive and helpful, enhancing the rapid convincement and supporting acceptance of the leaderships at all levels to implement the TOT.
- Most VS are the cores of institutions with high positions, having well-educated training, much experience in professional expertise and collaboration projects, resulting in having convenient chances to raise ideas, actively deploy and execute the activity plan.



Challenges

- Any modifications and improvements take some certain time to be recognized and adapted.
- The issue how to gain a common and complete assent and belief of all or the majority of people, especially with the institutions having a big quantity of staff members involved, is terribly considered and difficult.
- Some institutions are currently not very well-equipped and lacking in material facilities, consequently are limited to carry out parts of activity plan concerning the experimental and practical research.
- A few (junior) VS have newly approached and penetrated into such development research majors, resulting in facing the difficulties to carry out the activity plan in practice conditions and in teaching/research collaborations.
- It is not always able to apply what have learned and gained (eg. teaching methods and research techniques) in the U.S. into the real situations in VN although they are very well improved and developed.



Brief recent achievements in the implementation of TOT program at BiRDI, CTU



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Biotechnology Research and Development Institute (BiRDI)

Missions:

- Doing research, technology transfer and graduate and undergraduate training on Biotechnology related fields,
- Participating in training programs at CTU and other training institutions in the Mekong Delta,
- Commercializing new products for improving income and living conditions of the farmers in the Mekong Delta.

Three departments:

- Molecular Biology Department
- Microbiology Department
- Food Biotechnology Department



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Teaching activities

- Compose two new lecture notes and practical handouts on Food Microbiology and Safety in Food.
- Modify and improve three lecture notes: Beer Brewing, Food Fermentation and Biotechnology Seminars.
- Contribute to establishing the new advanced undergraduate training program on Biotechnology, organized based on the international (U.S.) standards.
- The junior colleagues can firstly join with students and then can serve as a substitute in lecturing.



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Research activities

- Applying to the current pilot-scale beer production.
- Training about new and improved techniques in the production of rice wine and cereal-based distilled spirits.



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Food Science, UC-Davis





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Beer Brewing Production at BiRDI





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Food Science, Cornell University





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Alcoholic Distilled Systems at BiRDI

www.ctu.edu.vn



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Network and exchange activities

- Deliver presentations in conferences in Vietnam, Thailand and Japan.
- Publications: 1 institutional article was published & 1 was in press, 2 Abstracts in international proceedings.
- Discuss to seek opportunities for joint collaborations and higher education training.
- Keep contact with the U.S. host institution and a plan for visits is very promising.



CANTHO UNIVERSITY

Conference in HCMC, August 2008





CANTHO UNIVERSITY

Conference in HCMC, August 2008





CANTHO UNIVERSITY

Conference in CTU, September 2008





CANTHO UNIVERSITY

Conference in CTU, September 2008





CANTHO UNIVERSITY

Conference in Japan, October 2008

The 1st Young Scientist Seminar
**Capacity Building and Development of
Microbial Potential and Fermentation
Technology towards New Era**
In the Asian Core Program (2008-2012)





CANTHO UNIVERSITY

Conference in Japan, October 2008



Thank you for your attention

