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#### **U.S. Experts in Vietnam for Agricultural Education Project and VEF Fellowship Selection**

*Hanoi, September 10, 2006* – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) announces the visit to Vietnam by a delegation of U.S. scientists and experts from September 9 - 18, 2006, to participate in the VEF Agricultural Education Project and the VEF Fellowship selection process for the Cohort 2007. In addition, a representative of the National Science Foundation (NSF) will be giving presentations on research funding opportunities with NSF.

For the Agricultural Education Project, four U.S experts in agricultural sciences will meet with Vietnamese government leaders in agricultural research and education policy, including the National Council for Science and Technology Policy, the Ministry of Education and Training, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The team will also meet with administrators and faculty from four leading Vietnamese universities in the agricultural sciences: Hanoi Agricultural University, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, Can Tho University, and Nong Lam University. The objective is to understand the current state of undergraduate education in agricultural sciences and to understand the needs of Vietnam in agricultural development.

For the final round of the VEF Fellowship selection process, twelve U.S. scientists will conduct oral exams/interviews to select the most talented candidates for the 2007 cohort. These candidates have already surpassed more than 1,500 applicants through various rounds of the selection process. A final Fellowship award will be offered after a nominee receives a letter of admission from a graduate program at one of the VEF Alliance schools or a leading U.S. graduate program that accepts VEF's financial support terms.

The U.S. delegation will also visit and conduct scientific lectures at universities and research institutes throughout the country. In addition, U.S. scientists will chair panel discussions on the application and admission process for graduate programs in science and technology at U.S. universities. The discussions will be held as follows: in Hanoi on September 11 at 9:00 a.m. at the University of Science - Vietnam National University; online on September 13 at 4:30 p.m. on Vietnam Net; and in Ho Chi Minh City on September 15 at 3 p.m. at the University of Natural Sciences - Vietnam National University.

Referring to this, Mr. Frank Jao, Chairman of the VEF Board of Directors, said, “VEF has succeeded by serving as a bridge to build excellent relationships between the U.S. and Vietnam and by assisting Vietnam to further develop in science and technology. With the close cooperation of the National Academies and the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training, we have confidence in implementing sustainable projects to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.”

Dr. Ray Gamble, Director of the Fellowships Office of the National Academies, said, “The National Academies and VEF have been highly successful with the Fellowship programs, as well as projects to help Vietnam build capacity in science and technology. We are enthusiastic about Vietnam’s bright future in this arena.”

For more information, please visit <http://www.vef.gov>.