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PRESS RELEASE

INTERVIEWS FOR 2012 VEF FELLOWSHIPS AND 3rd VEF ALUMNI CONFERENCE

Hanoi, August 10, 2011 – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) announces the visit to Vietnam by a delegation of 12 U.S. scientists and professors from August 4-12, 2011, to interview candidates for the 2012 cohort VEF Fellowships. This cohort of Fellows will begin graduate studies in the United States in the fall of 2012 in the fields supported by VEF, namely, the sciences (natural, physical, and environmental), engineering, mathematics, medicine (typically public health), and technology (including information technology).

During this round of the VEF Fellowship selection process, the U.S. scientists and professors will conduct oral exams/interviews for seventy six (76) VEF Fellowship finalists in order to select the most talented individuals with the greatest potential and promise for graduate study in the United States. All VEF Fellowship applicants were required to have taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test in order to be considered for the Fellowship competition and to have demonstrated competency in English, generally through the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). While in Vietnam, the U.S. delegation will also conduct twelve (12) scientific lectures and meetings at eight (8) universities and research institutes in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Furthermore, on this occasion, VEF is pleased to announce that the 3rd VEF Alumni Conference. The theme of this year's Alumni Conference is *VEF Alumni Network: Unity and Growth*, will be held from August 12-14, 2011, in Can Tho.

Following the 2nd VEF Alumni Conference held in Vung Tau and Ho Chi Minh City in August 2010, the 3rd VEF Alumni Conference offers opportunities for VEF Alumni to come together and discuss how they can further strengthen their contributions to Vietnam and continue to network and build on the professional development of their careers. In this way, the Conference is a forum to share knowledge and to facilitate a dialogue about our Alumni finding opportunities to enhance their contributions to Vietnam and to continue to foster collaborative exchanges between Vietnam and the United States. The VEF Alumni Conference also highlights the achievements and contributions of the VEF Alumni, identifies the most significant means to prepare other VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars to return to Vietnam, and illuminates how best to apply one's education and experience in the United States to the Vietnamese environment.

A press meeting regarding the oral exams/interviews for the VEF Fellowships for the 2012 cohort and the 3rd Alumni Conference will be held on Thursday, August 11,

from 2:00-3:00 pm at Vietnam Waste Solutions Da Phuoc Commune, Binh Chanh District, Ho Chi Minh City. Mr. David Duong's Vietnam Waste Solutions was built in 2005. It is the largest waste treatment plant in Vietnam and currently processes over 3000 tons daily from Ho Chi Minh City and 20 tons of waste daily from Long An province. Mr. David Duong, a distinguished member on the VEF Board of Directors, is the CEO and General Director of Vietnam Waste Solutions and California Waste Solutions, a company ranked by *Waste Age* magazine as the 37th among the top 100 waste treatment and recycling companies in the United States. Mr. Duong was the recipient of the prestigious Bay Trade Global Award for his achievements in building successful world trade and environmental stewardship.

Present at the press meeting will be two other members of VEF Board of Directors appointed by the U.S. President, who are highly accomplished individuals and are leaders in their professions and communities.

- Ms. Sandy Dang, a new Member of the VEF Board, is the founder of Asian American LEAD (AALEAD), an organization supporting U.S. immigrant families through a broad array of educational and social services. Ms. Dang graduated from Harvard University and she now serves on Boards for several other organizations as well.
- Ms. Marjorie Margolies is currently the President of Women's Campaign International, an NGO dedicated to increasing the participation of women in decision-making processes in over twenty countries in the world. She was the first woman from Pennsylvania ever elected to Congress. She is the mother of a combined family of 11 children and, with the refugee families she has been sponsoring over the years, her household has taken care of 25 children.

Dr. Lynne McNamara, VEF Executive Director, commented, "The Vietnam Education Foundation is proud to be a part of the development of the sciences, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and technology for Vietnam. The highly recognized VEF Fellowship Program enables the best minds of Vietnam to pursue their dreams of getting a graduate degree in these fields in one of the outstanding research universities in the United States. With the help of the U.S. National Academies throughout the selection process, VEF expects to send up to 45 new Fellows to begin graduate programs in the United States in the fall of 2012. VEF is delighted that VEF Alumni hold important positions in the academic, corporate, and development sectors upon their return to Vietnam."

Information about VEF:

Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is an initiative of the U.S. Congress and federal agency funded by the U.S. Government. This is the ninth year of its operations. As its flagship activity, the VEF Fellowship Program has placed 385 Fellows at 82 top U.S. graduate institutions, mostly for doctoral degrees. Among its other programs, the VEF Visiting Scholar Program provides opportunities for Vietnamese to pursue post-doctoral programs at U.S. universities from five to 12 months.

In addition, the U.S. Faculty Scholar Program allows for U.S. professors to teach at Vietnamese universities for one or two terms either on-site in Vietnam or via real-time interactive videoconferencing. VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars are required to return to Vietnam upon completion of their academic programs in the United States. As of July 2011, VEF has a network of 176 Alumni: 141 Fellows, 24 Visiting Scholars, and 11 U.S. Faculty Scholars. Some Alumni Fellows are currently completing their post-degree Academic Training in the United States.

For more information on VEF, please visit the VEF website at www.vef.gov.

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