



PRESS RELEASE

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WHITE HOUSE APPOINTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO THE VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Washington, D.C., November 13, 2008 - The White House confirmed the Presidential appointments of four new members to the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF): Mr. Viet D. Dinh, Ms. Elizabeth Dugan, Mr. Christopher J. Fussner, and Dr. Stephen F. Maxner.

Mr. Viet D. Dinh is founder and principal of Bancroft Associates while serving as Professor of Law and Co-Director of Asian Law & Policy Studies at the Georgetown University Law Center. He also serves as Director and Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee of the News Corporation. Mr. Dinh previously served as U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Legal Policy at the U.S. Department of Justice from 2001 to 2003. Besides numerous board positions, Mr. Dinh served as Associate Special Counsel to the U.S. Senate Whitewater Committee and as Counsel to other inquiries as well. Mr. Dinh graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He clerked for Judge Laurence H. Silberman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. He is admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia and is a member of the bar for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ms. Elizabeth Dugan was appointed Vice President for Programs of the International Republican Institute (IRI) in February 2005. Prior to this position, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State and represented the United States in China, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Vietnam. Having joined IRI in 1995 in St. Petersburg, Russia, Ms. Dugan worked at IRI until 2002, including serving as Regional Director for IRI democracy-building efforts in Asia. During the 1992 election cycle, Ms. Dugan served as Deputy Communications Director at the Republican National Committee, and managed the chairman's communications operation at the 1992 Republican National Convention. Prior to her position with the Committee, she served as Director of Public Affairs for the U.S. Commerce Department

International Trade Administration from 1989 to 1991 and as Special Assistant for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Labor Department from 1986 through 1989. Ms. Dugan received her Bachelor's degree in Spanish from Colby College in Maine.

Mr. Christopher Fussner is owner and founder of TransTechnology, a major distributor of Surface Mount Technology and semiconductor capital equipment with offices in Singapore, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Chiangmai, Jakarta, Batam, Manila, Cebu, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Hanoi, New Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai. He received his B.A. in History and Asian Studies from The George Washington University and his Master of International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management. He began his international career in Ouagadougou (Upper Volta) Burkino Faso, West Africa, as Program Assistant with Catholic Relief Services. Subsequently, he joined the Church World Service devoting his time as a Refugee Resettlement Officer in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he had responsibility for the Vietnamese Refugee resettlement process. Mr. Fussner then headed the Far East sales for Amistar Corporation based in Seoul, Korea, and in Singapore and was responsible for sales and service for electronics manufacturing industry machines in Australia, the Far East, and India. He is also owner and founder of Certain Cellars in Singapore, which is a distributor and importer of Fine Wines.

Dr. Stephen Maxner has served as Director of the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University (TTU) since July 2007. After serving in the United States Army for six years, Dr. Maxner earned his Ph.D. in American History at TTU with an emphasis on American Military and Diplomatic History. Since 1998, he has travelled extensively in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Dr. Maxner has participated in the Vietnam Center Study Abroad Program by escorting TTU students each year to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. He has also been very active in promoting educational projects between Vietnamese universities and TTU. As Vietnam Center director, he also plays a central role in hosting educational delegations from Vietnam to TTU every year.

Mr. Dinh, Ms. Dugan, Mr. Fussner, and Dr. Maxner replace outgoing VEF Board members Dr. Malcolm Gillis, who served as Chairman, Mr. Trung Dung, Mr. Richard Wall, and Dr. Van Toi Vo. Interim Chair of the VEF Board of Directors, Dr. Marilyn Pattillo, commented, "I am very grateful for the dedication and commitment of our former Board members while I am extremely pleased with the wealth of backgrounds, experience, and success that the four new presidential appointees add to the already impressive VEF Board of Directors. I am confident that, following their predecessors, the new Board members will bring VEF and our various programs and activities to an even higher level of success and achievement."

Prof. Van Toi Vo, VEF Executive Director and former Board member, stated, "On behalf of the VEF staff and myself, I want to thank our former Board members for their outstanding service and their valuable insights and expertise with regard to the efforts of VEF. I look forward to working closely with the new Board members to extend and expand VEF's well-recognized quality endeavors in international educational exchange."

VEF is a special initiative by the U.S. Congress to bring the United States and Vietnam closer through educational exchanges related to science, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and technology. The Foundation is in its fifth year of operations and incorporates assistance from the U.S. National Academies in developing and executing VEF programs. As its flagship activity, the VEF Fellowship program has placed 267 Fellows at 68 top U.S. graduate research institutions, mostly for doctoral degrees. The two other major VEF activities are the Visiting Scholar Program for Vietnamese to pursue post-doctoral programs at U.S. universities for up to 12 months and the U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant Program for American professors to teach at Vietnamese universities for one or two terms via videoconferencing or onsite in Vietnam. VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars are required to return to Vietnam after completing their academic programs in the U.S.

For additional information on VEF, please visit our website at: www.vef.gov