

VEF Special Projects: 2004-2006

SUMMARY: From 2004-2006, VEF has been involved in 8 major special projects that typically are on-going and/or recurring. Each project generally has multiple events over an extended time period. VEF has been committed to these projects because of the intended broad and long-term impact to the development of science and technology capacity in Vietnam.

No.	Title of Project	Dates/Timeframe	Brief Description & Status	U.S. Scientists and other experts/ Affiliation	Co-sponsors
1	MSI Centers of Excellence	<p><u>April 2004</u>: First MSI Seminar in Hanoi; <u>November 17, 2004</u>: Statement of Cooperation among MOST, SIG (Science Initiative Group), and VEF signed in Washington D.C. ; <u>March 2005</u>: SIG Evaluation Mission to Vietnam; <u>August 2005</u>: Vietnamese Study Tour Delegation to Brazil and Chile; <u>November 15, 2005</u>: MSI Second Seminar in Hanoi; <u>Early 2007</u>: Proposal to be submitted.</p>	<p>The Millennium Science Initiative (MSI) is an international initiative designed to build capacity in modern science and technology in developing countries with an aim to reduce poverty levels and encourage economic development. Highly adaptable to individual country contexts, MSI achieves its mission principally through “MSI Institutes,” which are Centers of Excellence in scientific research and training, often located within existing institutions. Recently, VEF and MOST hired a consultant to help the Project Team write Proposal. After that, the SIG experts will review it again before it is submitted to the Prime Minister for approval. VEF works as a catalyst and supporter for this Project.</p>	<p>The following experts have participated in MSI efforts on behalf of VEF: (1) Dr. Phillip Griffiths, Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton; (2) Dr. Chung Kim, IAS and Korea Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS); (3) Dr. Harold Varmus, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Nobel Laureate; (4) Dr. John Hopcroft, Cornell University; (5) Ms. Arlen Hastings, SIG; (6) Dr. Claudio Teitelboim, Centro de Estudios Científicos (Center for Scientific Studies), Valdivia, Chile.</p>	MOST; SIG
2	World-Class University project	June 2005 - June 2006 and on-going	<p>Following the statements of the Prime Minister of Vietnam during his visit to the U.S., the Government of Vietnam established a Project Team for the development of a world-class university, referred to also as an international standard university (ISU). The Feasibility Study is in progress. VEF was asked by the Project Team to participate in discussions and to help organize study tours to exemplary universities in Germany and the U.S. within 2006. VEF works as a catalyst and supporter for this Project.</p>	<p>Dr. Malcolm Gillis, Rice University, has participated in discussions in Vietnam and helped arrange visits to the International University Bremen (Jacobs University) in Germany as well as Rice University in the U.S. as examples of cooperative relationships in the establishment of a top-tier international university.</p>	Vietnamese Government, National Committee of Education, MOET

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3	Vietnam OpenCourseWare (VOCW)	<p><u>November 17, 2005</u>: MOU on OCW among MOET, VASC and VEF signed in Hanoi ;</p> <p><u>December 2005</u>: A Project Team was established and 14 VOCW member universities in Vietnam were designated;</p> <p><u>July 18 and July 20, 2006</u>: Connexions Workshops was organized in Hanoi and HCMC respectively;</p> <p>Mid-2007: The design of appropriate OCW syllabi to be completed by a group of select faculty members from VOCW member universities.</p>	<p>VEF has been working with MIT, the Connexions Project of Rice University, the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), and the Vietnam Advanced Software Company (VASC) to develop the Vietnam OpenCourseWare program in order to provide open course materials at no cost to Vietnamese university faculty and students. VEF will provide one dedicated server on loan to each of 14 Vietnamese universities, designated by MOST.</p> <p>VEF works as a catalyst and supporter for this Project.</p>	<p>Three experts from Connexions, Rice University:</p> <p>(1) Dr. Richard Baraniuk; (2) Dr. Sidney Burrus; (3) Dr. Chuck Bearden.</p>	<p>MOET, VASC.</p>
4	Undergraduate Education Project	<p>Phase I: <u>Fall 2005-Spring 2006</u>: Planning; <u>May 2006</u>: Site visits in Vietnam; <u>August 2006</u>: Final report</p> <p>Phase II: Sept 2006 - Sep 2009: Potential activities related to recommendations of the experts</p>	<p>This project focused on the status of undergraduate education in Vietnam as demonstrated in the fields of computer science, electrical engineering, and physics. The overall objective of the project was to investigate the differences between American and Vietnamese university undergraduate level practices in these fields and recommend solutions to narrow the gap. The final report is entitled <i>Observations on Undergraduate Education in Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Physics at Select Universities in Vietnam.</i></p>	<p>The National Academies assisted VEF by identifying the following experts to participate in the on-site Evaluation Team:</p> <p>(1) Dr. Peter J. Gray (Academic Assessment), United States Naval Academy; (2) Dr. John E. Hopcroft (Computer Science), Cornell University; (3) Dr. Isaac F. Silvera (Physics), Harvard University; (4) Dr. Stephen W. Director (Electrical Engineering), Drexel University; (5) Dr. Philip Doughty (Instructional Design), Syracuse University.</p> <p>Though not part of the site-visit team, Dr. Gloria Rogers of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) participated in planning and final discussions.</p>	<p>MOET; Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization Regional Training Center (SEAMEO RETRAC) in Vietnam; and VNU- HCMC.</p>

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5	VIFOTEC	From 2005	VEF supports the Vietnam Fund for Supporting Technological Creations (VIFOTEC) in its activities related to building S&T capacity in Vietnam.	N/A	VIFOTEC
	<i>VIFOTEC-VEF Science Competition</i>	January 7, 2006: Award Ceremony, Hue City.	"VIFOTEC-VEF Award for Technological Creations" - VEF provided funds to VIFOTEC to organize a nation-wide competition for the best research and technological creations for university students. Prizes were given in nearly 20 fields of science and technology: 7 first places, 22 second place prizes, 40 third, and 55 encouragement prizes. The selection criteria included: (i) methodology; (ii) scientific content; (iii) economic, scientific and educational efficiency; and (iv) project presentation.	N/A	VIFOTEC; Ministry of Education and Training (MOET).
	<i>VIFOTEC Publication for Scientific Research Papers</i>	Fall 2006: Date of publication	As part of VEF-VIFOTEC cooperation in encouraging and nurturing young talents in scientific research, VEF works closely together with VIFOTEC and contributes funds to publish a collection of scientific research papers from young Vietnamese scientists, including VEF Fellows.	N/A	VIFOTEC
	<i>ESL for VIFOTEC winners</i>	July 2006 - August 2007	At the request of MOET, VEF is providing one year of intensive, advanced level ESL for VIFOTEC winners. The purpose is to prepare recognized achievers in science in English skills sufficient to compete for VEF Fellowships. The Hanoi University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) will provide advertising, selection, ESL training, and evaluation.	N/A	VIFOTEC, MOET

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6	S&T Days and the bilateral Joint-Committee Meeting (JCM)	<p><u>November 15-16, 2005</u>: S & T Days; and <u>November 17 - 18, 2005</u>: JCM, both in Hanoi.</p> <p>The Joint Committee Meetings occur in the U.S. and in Vietnam every two years, alternating countries.</p>	<p>"Vietnam-USA Science and Technology Days (S&T Days) and Joint-Committee Meeting (JCM)" - In celebration of the 10th anniversary of bilateral relations, the S & T Days included a series of activities, exhibitions, and workshops as well as visits by U.S. scientists to Vietnamese universities and research institutes. VEF co-sponsored the S&T Days and had an exhibition booth at the event. VEF also sponsored two workshops: <i>MSI: Towards an appropriate model of Centers of Excellence in Vietnam</i> ; <i>USA-Vietnam Workshop on Water Pollution Prevention Technologies</i> . Following S & T Days, the JCM brought together U.S. and VN government agency representatives to discuss the areas of cooperation in S & T. The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi helped organize both events.</p>	<p>MSI Panel: (1) Ms. Arlen Hastings, SIG; (2) Dr. Claudio Teitelboim, Centro de Estudios Científicos (Center for Scientific Studies), Valdivia, Chile. Water Pollution Prevention Workshop: (1) Dr. Bob Siegrist, Colorado School of Mines; (2) Dr. Nancy Mc Tighe, EE&T, Inc.; (3) Dr. Karl Linden, Duke University; (4) Dr. David Reckhow, University of Massachusetts; (5) Dr. Kevin Montgomery, Stanford University.</p>	<p>Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST); Office of Science & Technology Cooperation/ U.S. Department of State; Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology (VAST).</p>
7	Digital Signal Processing Summer Seminar (DSPSS)	July 17-29, 2006.	<p>As there is growing interest in this area in Vietnam, this two-week intensive summer training helped prepare a group of young Vietnamese scientists in this cutting-edge technology. As a result, they will also be more prepared for future graduate study in the U.S., including becoming VEF Fellows. The 58 participants were selected from final year undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty in mathematics, physics, computer science, and electronics and telecommunications. The DSPSS took place at the Institute of Information Technology (IIT) and the College of Technology (COLTECH), VNU-Hanoi.</p>	<p>(1) Dr. Minh Do, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; (2) Dr. Trac D. Tran, John Hopkins University; and (3) Dr. Truong Nguyen, University of California, San Diego.</p> <p>In addition, 5 VEF Fellows worked as Teaching Assistants: Do Trung Thong; Nguyen Chi Kien; Nguyen Thi Cac; Nguyen Trong Dung; Vo Trung Dung. All are doctoral students in Electrical and Computer Engineering or Image and Signal Processing, representing the following universities: Johns Hopkins University; University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC); and University of California, San Diego.</p>	<p>National Science Foundation (NSF), COLTECH, IIT.</p>

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8	Agricultural Education Project	<u>September 6-17, 2006:</u> On-site visits to Vietnamese universities; <u>Nov./Dec. 2006:</u> Final Report	VEF requested the U.S. National Academies to survey the current status of agricultural education in Vietnam. The purpose of this survey was to inform VEF of how best to invest resources in fellowships, scientific exchanges, and other cooperative efforts in the field of agriculture. A team of four U.S. deans and distinguished faculty visited four top Vietnamese universities in agricultural sciences. The team also visited government leaders in agricultural research and education policy (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - MARD; Vietnam Academy of Agriculture Science -VAAS; and Ministry of Education and Training - MOET) in order to better understand the needs of Vietnam with respect to agricultural development.	(1) Dr. J. Scott Angle, University of Georgia; (2) Dr. Neal Van Alfen, University of California at Davis; (3) Dr. Andrew Hashimoto, University of Hawaii; (4) Dr. Jaw-Kai Wang, University of Hawaii-Manoa.	MOET, MARD.