

VEF SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS: JANUARY 2004 - AUGUST 2007

Summary: From April 2004 to August 2007, VEF provided support for 19 seminars/workshops. In addition to contributing funds toward the organization of each event, VEF funded 34 experts, representing more than 20 U.S. institutions and organizations to participate as speakers in these scientific events. To organize these events successfully, VEF worked together with more than 20 co-sponsors, both Vietnamese and American.

No.	Date	Title	Brief description	Presenter/ Affiliation	Co-sponsors	Number of participants	Venue
1	April 12, 2004	Workshop on Building Science and Technology Capacity in Vietnam	In its efforts to encourage VEF Fellows to return to Vietnam in the future, VEF supported a workshop on "Building Science and Technology Capacity in Vietnam." This workshop, focusing on centers of excellence, was organized by the Institute of Mathematics (under the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology -VAST) and the Science Initiative Group (SIG), a U.S.-based expert organization in centers of excellence.	(1) Dr. Phillips Griffiths from Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton; (2) Dr. Chung Kim from IAS/ Korean Institute for Advance Study (KIAS).	Ministry of Science and Technology, Institute of Mathematics, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) and Science Initiative Group (SIG).	~50 policy makers, scientists and university faculty members.	Institute of Mathematics, VAST, Hanoi.
2	October 22-23, 2004	Second IWONN	Following the First International Workshop on Nanophysics and Nanotechnology (IWONN) in 2002 and in light of the National Research Program in Basic Sciences of Vietnam, the Second IWONN was organized in Hanoi to promote the research of nanotechnology in Vietnam. Dr. Dastoor gave the keynote address.	Dr. Minoos Dastoor, NASA Headquarters.	Institute of Materials Science, VAST, College of Technology, Vietnam National Natural Sciences, Asian Office of Aerospace Research & Development, The United States Army Research Office.	~100 scientists, university faculty members and students.	Vietnam National University (VNU)-Hanoi.

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3	May 15-18, 2005 in Hanoi and May 23-25, 2005 in Can Tho	Soybean Biotechnology Seminar	Objectives: (1) to introduce latest biotechnologies in soybean; (2) to assess the current status of soybean genetics and biotechnology research needs in Vietnam; and (3) to identify specific subjects for research collaboration and specific needs for capacity building.	(1) Dr. Tom Clemente, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; (2) Dr. Henry Nguyen, University of Missouri, Columbia; (3) Dr. Gary Stacey, University of Missouri, Columbia; (4) Dr. Tara VanToai, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS).	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Vietnam Agricultural Science Institute (VASI), U.S. Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS), National Center for Soybean Biotechnology (NCSB).	~70 and 100 university faculty members, researchers, ministry officials and students in Hanoi and Can Tho respectively.	Vietnam Agricultural Science Institute (VASI) in Hanoi and Can Tho University, Can Tho.

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4	June 13-15, 2005	Control for Mechatronics Workshop	A summary of the attempts to uncover the mysteries of Mars were discussed. Plans for future human exploration depend on being able to land precisely by employing active guidance. Current activities aimed at improving spacecraft state knowledge during entry, descent and landing were used to illustrate the current trends in spacecraft navigation system development. It was held concurrently with the First Young Vietnamese Scientists Meeting (YVSM'05)	Dr. Robert Bishop, University of Texas at Austin	Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC), Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), College of Technology (COLTECH)	~20 university faculty members and young engineers in mechatronics	Institute of Materials Science, Nha Trang Branch

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5	July 27-29, 2005	First International Conference on the Development of Biomedical Engineering in Vietnam	Interest in biomedical engineering activities in Vietnam has grown considerably in recent years. The traditions, environment and conditions within the country offer unique research opportunities, and the Vietnamese government and university policymakers are aware of this field's importance. To address urgent educational and research needs in biomedical engineering, a domestic and international exchange of experience, support and collaboration in research, education and entrepreneurship in this field was seen as needed	1) Dr. David Kaplan, Tufts University; (2) Dr. David Gute, Tufts University; (3) Dr. Sergio Fantini, Tufts University; (4) Dr. Vo Van Toi, Tufts University.	NSF, VNU-HCMC, National Center for Laser Technology (NCLT), Tufts University	More than 200 Vietnamese educators, students, researchers, administrators and policy makers plus international scholars	Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Vietnam National University-HCMC

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6	November 15-18, 2005	USA-Vietnam Workshop on Water Pollution Prevention Technologies	"USA-Vietnam Workshop on Water Pollution Prevention Technologies" aimed to reinforce scientific and technological co-operation between the USA and Vietnamese agencies in the field of water pollution prevention technologies. It also initiated a course of action to promote environmental technologies, in which strategies were defined to optimize the future steps needed for a durable co-operation.	(1) Dr. Bob Siegrist, Colorado School of Mines; (2) Dr. Nancy Mc Tigue, EE&T, Inc.; (3) Dr. Karl Linden, Duke University; (4) Dr. David Reckhow, University of Massachusetts; (5) Dr. Kevin Montgomery, Stanford University.	Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC), Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), Asia Office of Aerospace Research and Development/ Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AOARD/AFOSR).	~100 researchers, university faculty members, students and policy makers.	Hilton Hanoi Opera.

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7	November 15, 2005	Seminar on Improving the Effectiveness and Linkage between Research and Education in Vietnam	On November 17, 2004, an Agreement to create a proposal for setting up a model for centers of excellence in Vietnam was signed by MOST, SIG and VEF. Many actions have been taken such as organizing a SIG delegation to Vietnam, a Study Tour for a Vietnamese delegation to Brazil and Chile. The objective of this Seminar was two-fold, e.g. reporting to the concerned people on the Study Tour of the MSI delegation to Brazil and Chile as well as discussing on how to do it in Vietnam.	(1) Dr. Claudio Teitelboim from CECS, Centro de Estudios Científicos (Center for Scientific Studies) from Chile; (2) Ms. Arlen Hastings from SIG.	The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Science Initiative Group (SIG).	~60 Vietnamese policy makers, scientists and university faculty members.	Headquarters of MOST, 39 Tran Hung Dao, Hanoi.
8	November 27-December 6, 2005.	Chemistry Seminar	An analysis of the Vietnam flora relative to published work on Vietnamese plants from the literature was presented. Additionally, a review (with illustrations) of the various approaches that have been used globally to select promising plants was presented, with examples of useful drugs that have been discovered using these approaches. This field of study is also known as pharmacognosy.	Dr. Norman Farnsworth, College from Pharmacy, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).	Institute of Chemistry, VAST.	~30 researchers, university faculty members and students.	Institute of Chemistry, VAST, Hanoi.

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9	December 26, 2005 to January 7, 2006.	CIMPA Math School	The objective was to introduce young Vietnamese mathematicians to some fundamental techniques and update them on recent developments in commutative algebra. The CIMPA (French: International Center for Applied and Pure Mathematics) School on Commutative Algebra is a co-sponsor.	1) Prof. David Cox, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; and (2) Prof. Bernd Ulrich, Purdue University.	CIMPA, International Mathematics Union (IMU), VAST, Institute of Mathematics, National Board of Natural Science (NBRNS).	~80 mathematicians and students of math.	Institute of Mathematics, VAST, Hanoi.
10	February 27-28, 2006 in Hanoi and March 2- 3, 2006 in HCMC	Scientific Research Development and Management Workshop	"Scientific Research Development and Management Workshop" addressed the key aspects of research planning, organization and funding as well as the practical aspects of conducting and reporting scientific research. The outcomes included greater proficiency at conceptualizing a research project, improved project planning and management capabilities, and enhanced familiarity with the successful publication of scientific research in international peer-review journals.	Four scientists/experts from the University of Michigan: (1) Dr. Fawwaz T. Ulaby; (2) Dr. John F. Mansfield; (3) Dr. Kazuhiro Saitou; and (4) Ms. Virginia R. Wait.	Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and U.S. Department of Health Human Services (DHHS).	~60 mid-career researchers and managers in each location.	MOST Headquarters in Hanoi and MOST Rep. Office in HCMC.

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11	May 12, 2006, in Ho Chi Minh City and May 18, 2006, in Hanoi	Public Panel Discussion: Accreditation and Assessment in Higher Education: A Focus on Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Physics	The purpose of this public panel discussion was three fold: (a) to discuss assessment and accreditation processes in the United States as they are applied to IT, Electrical Engineering, and Physics programs; (b) to compare these with observations of the Vietnamese system; and (c) to understand industry needs and interests when employing graduates from these fields.	Experts supported by VEF: (1) Dr. Peter J. Gray, United States Naval Academy; (2) Dr. John E. Hopcroft, Cornell University; (3) Dr. Isaac F. Silvera, Harvard University; (4) Dr. Stephen W. Director, Drexel University; (5) Dr. Philip Doughty, Syracuse University.	MOET; Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization Regional Training Center (SEAMEO RETRAC) in Vietnam; and VNU- HCMC	About 50 in each location: Ho Chi Minh and in Hanoi. The participants included: (a) industry representatives in Vietnam; (b) representatives of Vietnamese universities that offer IT, Electrical Engineering, and Physics programs; (c) Vietnamese university faculty members; and (d) Vietnamese experts in assessment and accreditation.	SEAMEO RETRAC Headquarters in HCMC and MOET Headquarters in Hanoi

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12	May 12, 2006, in Ho Chi Minh City and May 18, 2006, in Hanoi	Public Panel Discussion: Industry and Academia: Building Relationships	The purpose of this public panel discussion was three fold: (a) to understand the needs and interests of industry when employing graduates in the fields of IT, Electrical Engineering, and Physics; (b) to specify the role of industry in improving the training quality of IT, Electrical Engineering, and Physics programs; (c) to facilitate discussions between industry and academia in Vietnam regarding curricular improvements to improve qualifications of graduates in IT, Electrical Engineering, and Physics.	Experts supported by VEF: (1) Dr. Peter J. Gray, United States Naval Academy; (2) Dr. John E. Hopcroft, Cornell University; (3) Dr. Isaac F. Silvera, Harvard University; (4) Dr. Stephen W. Director, Drexel University; (5) Dr. Philip Doughty, Syracuse University.	MOET; Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization Regional Training Center (SEAMEO RETRAC) in Vietnam; and VNU- HCMC	About 50 in each location: Ho Chi Minh and in Hanoi. The participants included: (a) industry representatives in Vietnam; (b) representatives of Vietnamese universities that offer IT, Electrical Engineering, and Physics programs; (c) Vietnamese university faculty members; and (d) Vietnamese experts in assessment and accreditation.	SEAMEO RETRAC Headquarters in HCMC and MOET Headquarters in Hanoi

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No.	Date	Title	Brief description	Presenter/ Affiliation	Co-sponsors	Number of participants	Venue
13	June 12 - 16, 2005 in Nha Trang City	1st Young Vietnamese Scientists Meeting (YVSM)	This is the first year of YVSM with the objectives are: (1) to provide forum for emerging Vietnamese scientists to exchange and discuss their experience and the results of their studies, training and research activities; (2) to foster a worldwide, long term channel of communication and cooperation among Vietnamese scientists; and (3) to encourage young Vietnamese scientists studying overseas to return to Vietnam to contribute to their homeland.	Vietnam National University, Vietnamese Academy of Science & Technology, College of Technology, Information Technology Institute	More than 200 participants from the U.S, UK, Australia, Singapore and from many provinces in Vietnam	Vietnamese Academy of Science & Technology branch in Nha Trang City	
14	July 18, 2006, in Hanoi and July 20, 2006, in HCMC	Connexions Workshop	The Connexions Workshop demonstrated how the Connexions software tools work, how Connexions facilitates teaching and learning, and how Connexions can be adapted to the Vietnamese environment. The Connexions Workshop also helped IT technicians learn how to install and maintain local connection servers (Rhaptos).	From the Connexions Project, Rice University: (1) Prof. Richard Baraniuk; (2) Prof. Sidney Burrus; and (3) Prof. Chuck Bearden.	The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), the College of Technology (COLTECH), the Natural Sciences University HCMC and the Connexions, Rice University.	About 70 and 50 in Hanoi and HCMC respectively. The participants included members of the Vietnam OpenCourseWare (VOCW) Project Team, representatives and IT technicians of VOCW member universities.	COLTECH, VNU-Hanoi and the Natural Sciences University, Vietnam National University (VNU)-HCMC

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15	June 14 & 15, 2007 in Hanoi and June 17 & 18, 2006 in HCMC	Workshop on Course Design and Evaluation for Vietnam OpenCourseWare	The workshop is part of the long-term project that is run cooperatively between VEF and MOET. The project aims at bringing the most updated and highest quality teaching and learning materials from the leading universities in the world to Vietnam by introducing and encouraging Vietnamese scientists, faculty members, students, and self-learners to use the Open Educational Resources (OER) in their teaching, learning, and research work.	Dr. Philip Doughty, Syracuse University	Ministry of Education and Training	30 participants from all over the country who are the content developers and evaluators for the VOCW project	Sofitel Plaza Hotel in Hanoi & HCMC

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No.	Date	Title	Brief description	Presenter/ Affiliation	Co-sponsors	Number of participants	Venue
16	July 25 - 28, 2007	Second International Conference on the Development of Biomedical Engineering	Following the success of the First International Conference on the Development of Biomedical Engineering held in HCMC in 2005, the Second one is held in Hanoi with the following purposes: 1. To give Vietnamese educators, students, researchers, administrators and policy makers the opportunity to learn about the related works and models in the U.S. and elsewhere, and to present their accomplishments 2. To give international scholars the opportunity to learn of Biomedical Engineering activities in Vietnam for future collaborations; and to give US professional institutions (IEEE, AIMBE, etc.) opportunity to explore the possibility to establish BME chapters in Vietnam. 3. To develop the relationship between international and local industry, and to motivate further development of BME in Vietnam.	40 scientists from Vietnam, the U.S, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Shanghai, Italy, France, and Germany	Hanoi University of Technology, - National Center for Technological Progress, - CBR Institute for Biomedical Research	300 participants who are Vietnamese educators, administrators, policy makers, researchers and students from all over the country and from overseas	Hanoi University of Technology

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No.	Date	Title	Brief description	Presenter/ Affiliation	Co-sponsors	Number of participants	Venue
17	July 27, 2007 in Hanoi	2nd Young Vietnamese Scientists Meeting (YVSM)	This is the second year of YVSM with the objectives are: (1) to provide forum for emerging Vietnamese scientists to exchange and discuss their experience and the results of their studies, training and research activities; (2) to foster a worldwide, long term channel of communication and cooperation among Vietnamese scientists; and (3) to encourage young Vietnamese scientists studying overseas to return to Vietnam to contribute to their homeland.		National Center for Technological Progress, Hanoi University of Technology, and Harvard University		Hanoi University of Technology

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18	August 2-3, 2007	Workshop on Opportunities for Enhancing STEM Education in Vietnam: A Forum for the Discussion of VEF's Reports on Undergraduate Education in Selected Fields	The workshop is co-organized by the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF), and the National Academies (NA) in Hanoi on August 2 -3. The workshop is facilitated by six experienced U.S. experts, also the co-authors of the VEF reports, who were selected by the National Academies. The audience include nearly 100 leading decision makers from MOET and higher education institutions in Vietnam. The purpose of the workshop is to review recommendations made in VEF's reports, to discuss the relevance and feasibility of these recommendations with respect to Vietnam's system of higher education, and to identify innovative approaches, pilot projects, and partnerships that can be implemented to improve the quality of science and engineering higher education	The following experts who facilitated the workshop: 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. H. Ray Gamble, Director, Fellowships Office, the U.S. National Academies; (5) Dr. Lynne McNamara, Deputy Executive Director, VEF; (6) Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Country Director, VEF.	Ministry of Education and Training	Nearly 100 participants who are educators, administrators and policy makers from higher education institutions in Vietnam	Sofitel Plaza Hotel Hanoi

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19	August 6 - 13, 2007	Higher Education Enhancement Workshops	<p>A series of workshops aiming at enhancing higher education teaching, assessment, and planning methodologies are conducted by Dr. Peter Gray. Four topics of Dr. Gray's workshops include:</p> <p>(a) Developing Student Learning Outcomes – An Introduction</p> <p>(b) Developing Student Learning Outcomes – An Introduction & Evaluating Educational Excellence of Institutions, Programs and Courses (follow-up)</p> <p>(c) Strategic and Tactical Planning for Educational Enhancement</p> <p>Dr. Gray is a leading expert on Academic Assessment and Faculty Enhancement and one of the authors of VEF reports on Higher Education, at six universities in Hanoi, Danang, and Ho Chi Minh City.</p>	(1) Dr. Peter J. Gray (Academic Assessment), United States Naval Academy	<p>Hanoi University of Science, Hanoi National University of Education, University of Da Nang, HCMC Vietnam National University, HCMC University of Social Science, Institute of Educational Research</p>	Approximately 200 senior administrators, faculty, and leading decision makers from the host institutions and surrounding universities	<p>Hanoi University of Science, Hanoi National University of Education, University of Da Nang, HCMC Vietnam National University, HCMC University of Social Science, Institute of Educational Research</p>