

VEF Seminars and Workshops: April 2004-July 2006

Summary: From April 2004 to July 2006, VEF provided support for 13 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. Minoo 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.
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
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 Tighe, 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.
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.

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10	February 27-28, 2006 in Hanoi and March 2-3 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.
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
13	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