



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

December 27, 2011

Dr. Lynne McNamara, Ph.D.,
Executive Director
Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF)
2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201
USA

Dear Dr. McNamara,

Thank you very much for your letter and greetings. I am writing to express my personal thoughts and appreciation of what VEF has done over the past 9 years.

I attach high value to the contributions of VEF to Vietnam and to the relationship between the United States and Vietnam. As you may already know, Vietnam aims at becoming a modern and industrial country by 2020. Therefore, it needs a highly skilled workforce, especially in science and technology areas. The science and technology workforce trained in Vietnam has not met the increasing demand in terms of both quantity and quality. Thus, VEF's efforts in sending hundreds of young and bright Vietnamese students to leading U.S. institutions to pursue advanced degrees over the past 9 years are indeed very valuable to the development of Vietnam's high skilled workforce. These students, when returning home, would bring with them knowledge and skills that could not otherwise be gained if they did not have opportunities to study at leading U.S. institutions. On my part, as the Minister of Science and Technology, I will try my best to ensure that in the next few years we will have programs and policies that make working environment for returning students more attractive and conducive to doing research, development, and making innovations, as well as incentives that encourage more and more students to return home.

Besides the workshops and seminars, the MIT open courseware and other projects that VEF has sponsored and brought to Vietnam are also important in improving the access to world-class knowledge to the Vietnamese people, especially those who have not had a chance to study and work in developed countries like the United States. I highly appreciate all of these efforts.

Furthermore, VEF's efforts have also helped improve the relationship between Vietnam and the United States in many ways. The scientific exchanges through activities such as seminars, U.S. scientists delivering lectures at Vietnamese institutions, and other projects have helped

brought people of the two countries closer, facilitating mutual understanding and collaboration. Besides, experiences and understanding of the U.S. culture and those of other countries that the students gained through years of living and interacting with people from all over the world currently studying and working in the U.S. will also help improve mutual understanding as they return home and disseminate their experiences to others.

For all the benefits of VEF's activities, I think it is important and valuable for Vietnam that VEF continue its work. If there is anything I can do to help, please do not hesitate to let me know. I will make sure all your recommendations will be brought to my attention and you will receive my responses at the soonest time possible.

I wish you and all VEF's management and staff a successful and happy new year!

Sincerely,



Nguyen Quan
Minister