



2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201 • www.vef.gov • Phone 703-351-5053 • Fax 703-351-1423

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PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

In the United States: Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director, VEF U.S. Office,
Phone: 703-351-5053

In Vietnam: Dr. Nguyen Thi Thanh Phuong, Country Director
VEF Hanoi Office, Phone: 04-3936-3670, vefannualconference@vef.gov

**8TH ANNUAL VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION
FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS CONFERENCE**

Hanoi, December 30, 2010 – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce the 8th Annual VEF Fellows and Scholars Conference, which will be hosted this year by the University of Arkansas (UA) in Fayetteville, Arkansas, from Monday, January 3 through Wednesday, January 5, 2011. UA is one of the top universities in the United States that are members of the VEF Alliance supporting the mission of VEF.

The purpose of VEF, an independent U.S. Federal Government agency (www.vef.gov), is to build the relationship between Vietnam and the United States through educational exchanges. VEF activities focus only on the sciences (natural, physical, and environmental), engineering, mathematics, medicine, and technology (including information technology). VEF educational exchange activities include three programs: (1) Fellowship Program, which sends Vietnamese nationals to the United States for graduate degree programs; (2) Visiting Scholar Program, which supports Vietnamese nationals, who already hold a doctorate, to further develop their professional skills via studies, research, and/or observational activities at leading U.S. academic institutions; and (3) U.S. Faculty Scholar Program, which supports U.S. professors to teach courses at Vietnamese institutions for one to two semesters by teaching on-site in Vietnam or by teaching via interactive, real-time videoconferencing from the United States.

Speakers at the Conference include H. E. Le Cong Phung, the Vietnamese Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Chu Ngoc Anh, Vice Minister of Vietnam's Ministry of Science and Technology, as well as Admiral Jack E. Buffington, former chief engineer of the U.S. Navy. Also, Dr. Ngo Bao Chau, Professor at the University of Chicago and recent recipient of the Fields Medal, will be one of the primary speakers.

Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director of VEF, explained the value of international educational exchange. "VEF provides the link in creating professional and academic collaboration between Vietnam and the United States. Hosting the VEF Annual Conference at top U.S. universities, like the University of Arkansas, gives our Fellows and Scholars a chance to get to know the excellence of different U.S. academic institutions."

During the 8th Annual Conference, VEF Fellows, Visiting Scholars, and U.S. Faculty Scholars will participate in a variety of sessions and discussions. The VEF Conference is a valuable opportunity for professional career development, networking, and scientific discussions. Other features of the Conference include:

- Career Fair to help VEF Fellows and Scholars to establish important contacts with Vietnamese government representatives, universities, and research institutes as well as international companies involved in Vietnam that want to recruit talented and outstanding VEF Fellows into their workforce.
- Leadership Workshops presented by Walmart Corporate Leadership and the University of Arkansas Faculty Support Center
- Presentations by participating U.S. faculty and Vietnamese graduate students and post-doctoral scholars
- Scientific Sessions: Research activities of VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars
- “*All the Ways Home*” Session: Preparing VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars to return to Vietnam
- VEF Fellows and Scholars Association (VEFFA): Building a network of experts

Over 150 VEF Fellows and Scholars from more than 70 U.S. universities will be present at this Conference.

For further information on VEF and VEF Programs, please visit our website at: www.vef.gov