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Dear Friends,

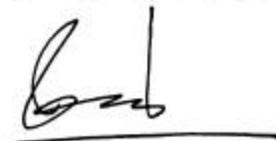
I would like to thank all of you who participated in the First Annual Vietnam Fulbright Conference held on May 19 in Hanoi. The conference was a great success. Five returned and current Fulbrighters shared with us the findings of their research and experience in educational reform, business strategy, Vietnamese history and economic relations. With the high level of interest and participation among Fulbrighters for the Conference, we are thinking of hosting more seminars and workshops throughout the year. If you are interested in presenting or organizing such an event, please let us hear your ideas.

Summer is fast approaching and we are planning to organize social gatherings for all Fulbrighters. We would like to organize family picnics in Hanoi and HCMC this summer for Fulbrighters and their families. I believe this will create a wonderful opportunity for all Fulbrighters to get to know each other on a more personal basis. Again, if you would like to suggest ideas or volunteer your time, the Fulbright Program office would love to hear from you.

As I began to finish my recruitment travel to look for candidates for next year's Fulbright Program, Diane Young, our new Program Officer of the Vietnam Student Program, will be beginning her recruitment effort. I hope you will extend the same warm welcome to Diane that you have shown me. With your help, this year's recruitment will be the most successful in terms of quality and quantity.

Finally, I would like to announce the imminent departure of the Embassy's Public Affairs Officer Ms. Tracy Thiele. She will be moving on to a new assignment in Washington, DC, as the China Desk Officer for Public Diplomacy. The Fulbright Program in Vietnam has improved its structure and organization under her direction and we all appreciate her efforts.

Best wishes,



Tran Xuan Thao, Ph.D.  
Director  
Fulbright Program in Vietnam

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## ALUMNI NEWS:

### **Fulbrighters attend First Annual Vietnam Fulbright Conference in large numbers**

After months of advertising and planning for the First Annual Vietnam Fulbright Conference, the event came together as a big success. More than fifty Fulbrighters, friends and guests attended the First Annual Vietnam Fulbright Conference in Vietnam held at the Rose Garden Tower in Hanoi on May 19. The interest generated by the event shows that this type of forum is a great way for Fulbrighters to share their knowledge.

The Conference audience had a chance to hear five presenters speak on a number of timely topics including business strategies for emerging markets (Doan Huu Duc), U.S. - Vietnam economic relations (Dr. Do Duc Dinh), historical legacy of Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue (Nguyen Quoc Vinh), English teaching reform (Dr. Do Huy Thinh), and higher education reform (Dr. Nguyen Thien Tong). Dr. Roger Ford and Dr. Joe Peters, both US Fulbright Scholars, lent their expertise and knowledge by moderating the Conference.

The Conference began with a presentation by Doan Huu Duc, a returned Vietnamese Fulbright Student, on the business strategy for emerging market entry, a topic that he researched and wrote about while on his Fulbright grant at the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University. Duc's presentation was then complemented by Dr. Dinh's, a returned Fulbright Scholar, presentation on the upturn in U.S. - Vietnam economic relations. Afterwards, both presenters were asked about their thoughts on the present investment climate in Vietnam. Both presenters agreed that Vietnam's investment climate was good but could be better given the present investment situation in other countries of the region.

The business and economics session of the Conference was followed by a presentation on the historical interpretation of Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue by Nguyen Quoc Vinh, a US Fulbright Student. Vinh took the audience on a journey starting in the mid-nineteenth century to modern times to show the different interpretations of Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue and his legacy. The presentation included observations and findings from Vinh's more than two years of research on the topic.

Dr. Thinh and Dr. Tong ended the Conference with presentations on English teaching and higher education reform in Vietnam. Dr. Thinh presented findings from his recent research on the level and need for future development of English-language training and teaching in HCMC. Dr. Thinh made recommendations that were wide reaching and emphasized needs-based English teaching. Dr. Thinh's and Dr. Tong's presentations together generated a spirited discussion among presenters and attendees on the present state of education reform in Vietnam.

U.S. Ambassador Douglas "Pete" Peterson then thanked the presenters and moderators for their time and effort. He summarized the sentiments of the audience by saying that there should be more scholarly and professional interactions like the Fulbright Conference held throughout Vietnam.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>
Fulbright Picnic - Hanoi	Returned Fulbright grantees and family	Hanoi	July 1, 2000
Fulbright Picnic - HCMC	Fulbright grantees and family	HCMC	July 14, 2000
U.S. Scholar Review Session	Fulbright Program Office	Hanoi	July 21, 2000

**Correction in April issue**

In the article, "*Hiliary Douglas writes play to understand more about Vietnam*," in the April 2000 issue of *Fulbright News*, we wrongly stated that Hiliary Douglas was researching literature in Vietnam for her Fulbright grant. Hiliary is in fact engaged in creative writing and researching modern theater in Vietnam. We apologize for providing incorrect information.

**U.S. Fulbright Scholars and Students chosen for this year's program**

Candidates for this year's U.S. Fulbright Scholar and U.S. Fulbright Student programs have been chosen. This year's class includes 8 Scholars and 9 Students. Their academic and professional backgrounds range from medicine to environmental studies and education to business integration.

**US Fulbright Scholars**

- Dr. Joseph Duemer
- Dr. Mart A. Stewart
- Dr. Ngo Vinh-Long
- Dr. Lewis C. Abercrombie
- Dr. Marie D. Hare
- Dr. John J. McDonald
- Dr. John C. Shafer
- Dr. Charles Shively

**US Fulbright Students**

- Ms. Hanh Hao La
- Ms. Vi To Ly
- Ms. Jennifer L. Foley
- Ms. Sasha Bezzubov
- Mr. Richard B. Verrone
- Ms. Annie Hoang Nguyen
- Ms. Virginia A. Visconti
- Ms. Nam Tran Thi Nguyen
- Ms. Dongphuong Nhu Truong

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 Fax: (08) 821-6405

## VISITING FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

### Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program: An introduction

The Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program for Vietnamese scholars is one of four traditional components of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. Since its inception in 1998, the program has sent 10 Vietnamese scholars to the United States for research and lecture. These scholars come from a wide range of backgrounds including academic professionals, government officials and specialists in agriculture, finance, and environmental sciences.

The program is open to interested candidates who hold a Ph.D. degree. Candidates must be Vietnamese citizens under the age of fifty and must possess adequate English skills to conduct their research and/or lectures in the United States. Special consideration is given to scholars in the academic disciplines of American studies, environmental policy, foreign policy, economics (including international economics and agricultural economics), public health, international law, public administration, higher education administration and women's studies.

If you know of someone who is interested in applying for the Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program, please call or write to the office of the Public Affairs Section-Hanoi (PAS-Hanoi) at 6 Ngoc Khanh, Hanoi. The deadline for the Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program for the 2001-2002 academic year is October 15, 2000.

### FROM YOU:

Have you moved recently? Please write your new contact details here and fax or email to PAS - Hanoi: (04) 831-4601 or [fulbrightvn@fpt.vn](mailto:fulbrightvn@fpt.vn).

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

New fax: \_\_\_\_\_

New E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## FULBRIGHTER NEWS

### Students Applying for Fulbright Grant

The application process for the 2001 Fulbright grant competition is well underway. Applicants are submitting their Preliminary Data Forms (PDF) to the Fulbright Office to meet the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Please help us by contacting promising candidates and encouraging them to apply for the 2001 Fulbright grant competition. If you would like us to email, mail or fax the 2001 Announcement and PDF to you, please contact Diane Weisz Young at the Fulbright Program Office at (04) 831-4580, Ext. 155 or [dyhano@pd.state.gov](mailto:dyhano@pd.state.gov).

The Fulbright Office has begun evaluating the applicants who have already submitted their preliminary applications. Those who meet the minimum criteria will be taking an Institutional TOEFL and attending an Information Session. The Information Session will provide candidates the opportunity to learn more about the Fulbright Program as well as this year's selection process. In addition, useful information about how to complete a strong Fulbright application will be presented. Diane Young began conducting these Information Sessions in Hanoi on June 6<sup>th</sup>. She then traveled to HCMC on June 12<sup>th</sup> for another presentation. These sessions continue in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City throughout June and July. In July, she will also visit Can Tho, Da Nang and Hue.

The Information Sessions would also be an excellent opportunity for former Fulbrighters to meet potential Fulbrighters. The Fulbright Office invites you to participate in an Information Session in order to offer your suggestions and "words of wisdom" to this year's applicants. Your insights would be extremely valuable! Please contact Diane Young if you are available to speak for 5 –10 minutes at one of the sessions.

### Condensed *Fulbright News* for May and June

Due to unforeseeable changes to some of the information provided in the May edition of *Fulbright News*, the May and June editions have been condensed into one newsletter. This change is only for the months of May and June. Subsequent newsletters will continue to be published on a regular monthly schedule.

## FULBRIGHT FEATURE:

### **Tran Phuoc Dung takes care of business at HSBC**

The Fulbright Program can improve the professional outlook and standing of many of its participants. For Tran Phuoc Dung, this statement cannot be any truer. He has re-oriented his career ever since coming back from the program and has taken advantage of his new-found interest and knowledge of international banking.

Before going on the Fulbright Program in March 1996, Dung was working on projects in the electricity industry. He developed a great interest in the finance side of the projects which led him to seek opportunities to study finance abroad. He applied to the Fulbright Program and was given the opportunity to study for his MBA from the University of Chicago.

Dung started his Fulbright grant in March 1996 and, after two years of study, came back to Vietnam with a fresh new outlook and a deep understanding of international finance. Having graduated from a top MBA program in the United States through the Fulbright Program, he was highly-sought after by the multinational banks operating in Vietnam. "The United States is a great place to study finance and management because it has the world's leading teaching institutions in these areas. The Fulbright Program gave me an advantage not only because it allowed me to study in the United States but also because of its reputation for excellence. Many companies valued the fact that I was a Fulbrighter," commented Dung.

Dung finally chose to work at The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) as its Corporate Relationship Executive. He said, "Usually new employees have to begin their career at HSBC at entry-level positions. However, I was able to go directly into a senior-level position because of the extensive experience and knowledge I gained on the Fulbright Program."

Dung is responsible for customer relations for HSBC's many corporate clients and collaboration with financial institutions. He credits the practical and not just theoretical knowledge he gained on his Fulbright grant to the success he has had at his current position. "I appreciate the ability to apply my skills and knowledge directly into my present work. I do not believe that this would have been possible without my education in the United States," Dung commented.

In his free time, Dung keeps contact with his fellow Fulbrighters whom he considers close friends. He is thankful for the network of friends he has had through the Fulbright Program because they have helped him in his professional as well as personal development. "I value the exchange of knowledge and experience we returned Fulbrighters have with each other. I attend many of the Fulbright activities in Vietnam because it helps me keep in contact with other Fulbrighters."

Talking about the significance of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, Dung commented, "Vietnam is fortunate to have such a large Fulbright Program which sends about Vietnamese 30-40 students and scholars to the United States each year. I believe the priority for the Program and indeed its past participants is to maintain the quality of the Program through active recruitment and thorough selection."